

2 Lebanese hurt in Israeli attack

TYRE (AFP) — Two Lebanese civilians were wounded Tuesday when Hizbollah fighters fired Katyusha rockets against the Israeli-occupied border zone in south Lebanon, security sources said. At least one Katyusha rocket also hit northern Israel, slamming in an open space near the Lebanon-Israeli border near the Mediterranean Sea, but causing no injuries or damage, an Israeli army spokesman said. Eleven rockets had been fired in two salvos within half an hour at Israeli army positions, including a patrol, near Hula in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, he added. Civilians Zeidan Ghader, 60, and his son Loai, 18, were wounded by shrapnel from rockets fired on an Israeli post in Dimashqiyah, close to the international border between Lebanon and Israel, hospital sources said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Netanyahu slams U.N. assembly

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took a swipe at the U.N. Tuesday over a General Assembly resolution requesting its members halt support for Jewish settlements. The proposal, expected to be adopted later Tuesday, asks countries to prevent individuals or companies from supporting settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to bar the import of goods produced there. It follows up a recent report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemning Israel for not abandoning settlement construction at a site in Arab east Jerusalem called Jabal Abu Ghneim. "While thousands or hundreds of thousands are dying in various wars or disasters in the world...the United Nations chooses to discuss two or three bulldozers that are building apartments for tranquil citizens in Jerusalem," Mr. Netanyahu told reporters.

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Government says elections on time, ready for dialogue

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Tuesday reiterated its resolve to go ahead with parliamentary elections, due in November, regardless of whether the opposition decides to call for a general boycott, but said it was ready to open a dialogue with the Muslim Brotherhood and other groups.

Excluding the possibility of extending the mandate of the 12th Parliament, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali declared that "the elections will be held on their constitutional time," which is within the last four months of the end of the last ordinary parliamentary session.

Noting that the mandate of the current Parliament ends on November 8, the premier said "the government will announce the election date after His Majesty King Hussein issues a Royal Decree."

Rejecting the notion that the government would withdraw the license of the Muslim Brotherhood, following its decision last week to boycott the elections, Dr. Majali stressed that "there is no struggle between the government and any party."

"To have a struggle, there must be a declaration by the two parties entering the battle. But on our side (the government) we have no such intention, and we do not have any plan to see any crisis breaking out," the prime minister said in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC).

"They are free to decide to boycott the elections," he said. However, he remarked that "the Brotherhood was originally established as a religious organization, and they were not supposed to have anything to do with politics, but they do."

"They have now taken a decision, and if they have anything against what the government is doing, the only solution is that they open a dialogue with the government," Dr. Majali continued.

Rejecting Muslim Brotherhood's accusation that the government would force the election results in favour of the National Constitutional Party, Dr. Majali said he regretted "that some people are pre-judging (the result) before anything happens."

"They have said that the previous Parliament was forged. Why did they not voice their objections to it at that time?" Dr. Majali asked.

"We are an open government, open-minded, and ready to

open a dialogue at any time, and they are free to say whatever they think," he stressed, maintaining that "the minority cannot impose its opinion on the majority, especially when the majority has already taken a decision."

Earlier in the day, Minister of Information Samir Mutawi also affirmed that "the elections will be held in their constitutional time," notwithstanding the Muslim Brotherhood's decision last week to boycott the elections and the current debate among the Islamists and the leftists on whether to take a similar step to that of the Brotherhood.

"There are no changes whatsoever and the necessary measures in preparation for the elections will be introduced as customary," he said.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet session, Dr. Mutawi stressed that "as a government, our programme has already been set, and we are going to hold the elections," but also declared the government's readiness "to open a frank dialogue with any opposition party or any other body wishing to talk."

In reply to a question on whether the government thinks the boycott will impact on the turnout at the polls, Dr. Mutawi said: "No doubt, they (the opposition parties and the Brotherhood) have their own bases and their supporters and so do all the political parties which will be running in the elections. However, we hope that the great majority of voters will participate in the elections and that the turnout will be good."

The minister also announced a government plan to "organise a media campaign to encourage voters (to go to the polls)." He said the campaign will be launched "after the voting date is set."

Commenting on the Brotherhood's decision to boycott the elections, Dr. Mutawi stressed that "Parliament is the forum where all opposition groups should present their views. If some party or political side wishes to boycott, then, this is



Abdul Salam Majali

their own affair, but the Parliament remains the logical and natural place for any opposition."

"I believe that dialogue is needed at all times," Dr. Mutawi continued, "but the natural forum for the presentation and the discussion of political demands is parliament."

A government official statement issued Monday night criticised the Brotherhood's move and described it as "unjustified."

"The government has studied the statement of the Muslim Brotherhood with an open heart, but it is not persuaded by its justifications," the statement said, adding that "the government believes that (the decision) derived from an internal crisis in the (Brotherhood) movement."

The Brotherhood's overall leader, Abdul Majeed Thneibat, listed the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, restrictions on press freedom introduced in May by a temporary Press and Publications Law, and the one-person, one-vote system as the main reasons behind his group's call for a general boycott.

"Our decision is not a declaration of war against the regime, but a request for reforms," Mr. Thneibat said, urging "a national programme for constitutional reforms."

Countering the opposition's criticism of the recent amendments to press and elections legislations introduced by temporary laws, Monday's government statement stressed that "article 94 of the Constitution empowers the executive authority to issue temporary laws."

The statement also pointed out that "the temporary laws will be put before the next parliament, which can either ratify or reject them."

Regarding the amendments to the election law, which opposition groups describe as falling short of their expectations, the government defended them by saying that "the amendments" did not introduce real changes, but only administrative adjustments.

Opposition groups were asking for the abolition of the one-person, one-vote system, the redrawing of constituencies according to the density of population, the lowering of voting age from 19 to 18, and the abolition of minority quotas. The recently introduced amendments, instead, promoted some districts to the rank of constituencies, leaving unchanged the number of seats allocated for each district.

Regarding amendments to the Press and Publications Law, strongly criticised by international press freedom groups, the government explained that they were made necessary by "a deterioration in the performance of the press..."

Prince Hassan congratulates athletes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday sent a congratulatory cable to the Jordanian team taking part in the 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut for their good results. Prince Hassan wished them further success and better achievements.

Israeli seriously hurt in Jerusalem shooting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A 60-year-old Israeli was shot and seriously wounded Monday night in central Jerusalem by an unidentified assailant who fled, police said. The victim was in the entryway of a grocery store when his attacker, whom witnesses appeared to be in his twenties, shot him in the neck and ran off. The older man was in intensive care in a Jerusalem hospital, police said, adding that the attack appeared to be unrelated to politics.

Egypt seizes massive haul of smuggled gold

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian airport authorities seized around 100-kilogrammes of gold a passenger was attempting to smuggle in spare tractor parts, an official said on Tuesday. Officials said it was the largest amount of gold seized at an Egyptian border post.

Saudi council sworn in

JEDDAH (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has sworn in the 90-member Consultative Council which he appointed last week for a new four-year term. The official news agency SPA said King Fahd addressed the council members at the swearing in Monday to reiterate Saudi Arabia's "commitment to the peace process" with Israel.

Majali to visit Gaza Strip in bid to unlock Palestinian-Israeli talks

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali will head for Gaza soon to meet with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in an effort to overcome the deadlock in talks between the Palestinians and Israel, a senior Palestinian official said Tuesday.

Mahmoud Abbas, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, said that the visit will aim at "improving bilateral ties and highlighting Jordan's efforts" in the peace process.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi told reporters following a Cabinet session that no date was set for the visit.

Asked about the ongoing talks between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel to operate the airport and harbour in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Abbas said that no concrete progress was achieved during the talks.

These talks follow a meeting Thursday at the residence of Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv Mohammad Bassyouni, which grouped senior Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath and

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and during which the two sides agreed on several confidence-building measures as a step towards resuming the peace talks which were stalled for the past six months.

"Negotiations between the two sides are focusing on several issues such as operating the airport and harbour in Gaza, safe passage and other issues relating to the transitional period," Mr. Abbas said.

"But we cannot say that we have reached something at this point," the architect of the Oslo agreement said following his 75-minute encounter with Dr. Majali.

"The Israeli government is adamant, and we know that its demands are unjust, but at the end... it will be forced to accept what it has signed, because the accord with Israel is not only bilateral but an international agreement. I am optimistic that one day we will reach peace," Mr. Abbas added.

The Palestinian official noted that Jordan is exerting efforts to achieve a breakthrough in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

"Jordan played and still plays a continuous role in overcoming the obstacles.

Concerted Arab efforts are being conducted in the same direction to achieve the same objective," he said.

The comments of Mr. Abbas come one week after Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said that Egyptian mediations have failed to bring the Palestinians and Israelis back to the negotiating table.

Mr. Musa blamed Israel for the failure of the mediations of President Mubarak's political advisor Osama Baz.

Foreign Minister Fawzi Tarawneh was quoted by Al Aswaq daily on Tuesday as saying that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement to launch the safe passage route between Gaza and the West Bank and to operate the Gaza airport and harbour is expected very soon.

"I think that agreement would be announced next week," Dr. Tarawneh said.

Mr. Abbas is the third high-ranking Palestinian official to visit the Kingdom in less than 72 hours.

On Sunday Dr. Shaath was here with a message from President Arafat to His Majesty King Hussein.

The Palestinian minister in charge of the Jerusalem file at the PNA, Faisal Hussein, arrived here Monday in an unannounced visit.

Algeria frees FIS leader Madani

PARIS (R) — Algeria Tuesday freed Islamist Salvation Front (FIS) chief Abassi Madani in what diplomats termed a dramatic step but one unlikely to end violence in the North African country.

The military prosecutor's office in Blida, where Mr. Madani had been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment in 1992, said the measure was a "release on parole."

"It's a dramatic move in terms of the government relationship with the opposition and FIS," said a senior diplomat in Algiers.

"But it is not going to stop the violence like the bomb in Baraki yesterday

or the massacres. There's no reason to think that Madani can do that now. His time has gone by."

The FIS leadership in exile has long called for the release of its leader and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, as one condition for putting its weight behind efforts to bring peace back to Algeria.

Analysts said it would certainly welcome the release but could be divided over any change in stance while Mr. Belhadj remained held.

Martin Stone, head of research at the London-based Control Risks, also said he did not believe the violence would stop.

"The security environment is very complex. The FIS's AIS (Islamist Salvation Army) is only one of six or seven groups and is not going to stop fighting until the FIS is legalised," he said.

"And the GIA has nothing to do with the FIS and it's that group which is doing the urban bombings like that yesterday."

The Armed Islamist Group (GIA), led by Antar Zouabri, 27, is the most ruthless of the groups and is blamed by the authorities for bombing and massacres in which hundreds have died.



Jewish settlers are detained by Palestinian police for about an hour before being released for trying to enter the Palestinian self-ruled area of Hebron with their weapons Tuesday. In downtown Hebron, Palestinian police, in an effort to restore calm to the town's volatile streets, manned the invisible border for a second day running to put an end to the violent clashes of the past weeks between Palestinian youths and Israeli troops that have left scores wounded (Reuters photo)

PLO says Israel threatened to reoccupy Hebron

RAMALLAH (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Tuesday Israeli threats to reoccupy Hebron prompted Palestinian police to intervene to restore calm in the divided West Bank city.

Israeli officials said they relayed messages to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) promising "tough measures" if the unrest continued but refrained from commenting on the Palestinian allegation.

"There were contacts between Israeli and PLO senior security officials on Sunday night," said a PLO official who refused to be named.

"The Israelis informed the Palestinian side they would reoccupy Hebron if Palestinian police did not intervene to restore calm in the city the next day," he said.

Around 200 PLO police

men intervened Monday for the first time in three weeks to quell Arab unrest in volatile Hebron, working in tandem with Israeli soldiers.

Israel handed over 80 per cent of the town — home to 120,000 Palestinians and 400 Jewish settlers — to the PLO last January. The rest, including settler enclaves, remains under Israeli security control.

Hebron has been the scene of almost daily clashes in recent weeks between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians. The latest wave of violence erupted when a right-wing Jewish woman posted a poster on Arab store-fronts depicting Prophet Mohammad as a pig.

Clashes concentrated along an invisible dividing line. PLO police had refrained from intervening as youths hurled stones and

petrol bombs at soldiers who responded by shooting live and rubber bullets.

The official said contacts between the sides continued until early Monday and calm was restored after Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ordered his police to halt the riots.

Israel's defence minister confirmed senior officials held late night contacts with the PNA and vowed to take "tough measures in order to restore order if the security situation in Hebron continued."

Israeli government spokesman Moshe Fogel said Palestinians were told: "If you don't control events we will. We will take all the necessary measures to protect Israelis and restore calm."

He denied the remarks constituted Israeli threats. Western diplomats said it

was the second time Israel threatened to reoccupy Palestinian cities to pressure Mr. Arafat to quell unrest. The first time was last September when violent clashes erupted after Israel opened a tourist tunnel near Islam's third holiest shrine in east Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Palestinians protested Tuesday against the arrest by Israeli troops of three Palestinian policemen and denied Israeli accusations they had been planning to attack a Jewish settlement.

An Israeli military spokesman said Israeli troops arrested the three policemen late Monday outside the Braha Settlement near the West Bank city of Nablus.

One policeman was wounded during the arrest because "he tried to resist by using his weapon," the spokesman said.

Yilmaz cleanses state apparatus of Islamists

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has begun to cleanse the state apparatus from senior officials close to the former Islamist-led government, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The conservative Yilmaz replaced Turkey's police chief, Kemal Celik and Istanbul governor, Ridvan Yenisen with officials close to his administration, the liberal Istanbul daily Hürriyet said.

Other senior officials sacked by Mr. Yilmaz include Istanbul's security chief and the governor of the central province of Konya, a stronghold of the pro-Islamist Welfare Party of former Premier Necmettin Erbakan, it said.

Mr. Yilmaz's secular right-left coalition government won a crucial parliamentary confidence vote last Saturday, replacing Mr. Erbakan's coalition between Welfare and conservative politician Tansu Ciller's True Path Party.

Mr. Yilmaz complains that Mr. Erbakan had appointed officials affiliated to Welfare and True Path to top positions in the state apparatus before the former premier's June 18 resignation.

Mr. Erbakan's turbulent 12-month term had witnessed major rifts between his government and the powerful pro-secular army over creeping Islamisation in Turkey. The tension, which raised fears of a military coup, culminated with Mr. Erbakan's resignation last month and his replacement by a secular premier.

Mr. Yilmaz has vowed that his three-party coalition government, backed by the army, will "erase the traces" of the Islamist-led government.

Welfare MP defects

A parliamentary deputy Tuesday resigned from Turkey's Welfare Party, adding to a flood of defections from the Islamist-led coalition that used to form the government in Ankara, the Anatolian news agency said.

Saban Karatas said in a statement that he sent to the parliamentary speakership that he would remain an independent deputy following his resignation.

But political analysts expected him to support the secular government of Mr. Yilmaz in parliamentary votes.

More than 20 deputies have defected from the Islamist-led coalition, mainly from the True Path Party of Mr. Erbakan's conservative ally Tansu Ciller, to the Mr. Yilmaz's camp since the new premier's June 20 appointment.

Mr. Erbakan and Mrs. Ciller have strongly criticised the military and Mr. Yilmaz for "resorting to undemocratic and immoral" ways in transferring deputies from their parties.

After the defections, Mr. Yilmaz now has the support of a clear majority of more than 280 deputies in the 548-seat Turkish parliament.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yilmaz has promised to take immediate steps to free jailed newspaper editors and reform press laws, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in a statement released here Monday.

The group said Mr. Yilmaz agreed to introduce a bill next week annulling the convictions of prize-winning editor Isik Yurtcu and as many as six other editors prosecuted under a law making managing editors legally responsible for all information and opinions contained in their publications.

The group's statement came after a delegation including CPJ, the Vienna-based International Press Institute and the French Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) met Monday with Mr. Yilmaz.

Mr. Yurtcu, former editor of a banned pro-Kurdish daily, has been condemned to 12 years in jail for published articles that were allegedly against the Turkish state.

The non-profit group also said Mr. Yilmaz said detailed legal information on Mr. Yurtcu's case was being sought to lay the groundwork for a presidential pardon.

The group quoted Mr. Yilmaz as saying that jailing of editors had been "explained away in the past by the fight against terrorism... that was unacceptable then and it is unacceptable now."

CPJ says 78 journalists are currently jailed in Turkey, more than the number of journalists imprisoned in Ethiopia, China, Kuwait and Burma combined.

In a separate development, a Turkish human rights groups reported Tuesday that a total of 588 people appealed to rehabilitation centres in Turkey last year, saying they had been tortured by security forces.

The Ankara-based Turkish Human Rights Foundation (THV) said in an annual human rights report that 91 per cent of those allegedly tortured were charged with political crimes, a term mainly used for membership to outlawed extreme left-wing, pro-Islamist or separatist Kurdish groups.



An Israeli rescue team evacuates a wounded athlete after a bridge collapsed Monday near Tel Aviv at the opening ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah Games, the Jewish Olympics (AFP photo)

2 killed as 'Jewish Olympics' bridge collapses

TEL AVIV (AP) — Sobbing and hugging each other, some 200 Australian athletes Tuesday recited Jewish prayers for two team mates killed and 63 injured in the collapse of a bridge during the opening ceremony of the Maccabiah Games.

Team leaders said it would be up to each athlete whether to compete in the Olympic-style games that were suspended after Monday night's accident and will open Wednesday.

"Let's get through this and show our true Aussie spirit," Louis Platus, a leader of the Australian delegation, told the athletes who gathered at the Maccabiah Village, dressed in team uniforms of white shirts and shorts with yellow and green stripes.

The two dead, Gregory Small, 37, and Yitty Bennett, 50, were both ten-pin bowlers. Six other bowlers were injured. Group leader Daniel Zaltzman said the four uninjured bowlers decided to compete. "We can do nothing more than win in their memory," he said.

The bridge, a temporary structure across the shallow Yarkon River, collapsed at

about 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) Monday as about 100 of the Australian delegation's 380 members were walking across it toward Ramat Gan Stadium, where some 45,000 spectators awaited the traditional athletes' procession.

The Australians were the second to cross, after the Austrian team. One Austrian competitor was also hurt. "We heard a crack and a second crack and all of a sudden the bridge collapsed," said Australian Team Manager Harry Purcell. "People were falling on top of each other."

For long minutes, dozens struggled to get out of the waters, some entangled in twisted aluminum beams. Many victims linked arms and formed a human chain to pull each other out, which reportedly caused numerous broken arms and ankles.

The steep muddy banks forced rescue workers to use ropes to descend to the waterside.

About 20 ambulances rushed to the scene as helicopters hovered overhead and divers searched the river for victims caught beneath the bridge. Green

hats worn by some of the Australians washed up on the muddy river banks.

Lauren Milner, one of the injured Australians, said she swung above the river, holding on to a piece of broken wood as pain swelled in her right leg. As her strength gave out, she plunged in.

"I thought, 'am I going to die?'" said the 16-year old from Sydney.

Seven of the injured remained in serious condition Tuesday.

Ms. Milner and her friend Bianca Katz, also 16, trained for two years to qualify for Australia's junior netball team in the 15th Maccabiah, a quadrennial event which this year drew some 5,000 Jewish athletes to Israel. She suffered a minor knee sprain and cuts; Ms. Bianca wasn't so lucky—she has a broken leg and hip.

Tom Goldman, the head of the Australian delegation, demanded an official investigation into what he called "this totally unnecessary and avoidable disaster."

Israeli media reported Tuesday that the army's engineering corps had offered to build a new bridge for 300,000 shekels

(\$85,700), but that organisers decided to award the project to a private contractor who charged only 70,000 shekels (\$20,000).

The 20-metre-long, five-meter wide bridge was built three weeks ago for the ceremony. It was made of wooden planks held up by green aluminum support beams.

Police ruled out sabotage. "Disgrace" read a banner headline Tuesday in the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot.

In a controversial decision, organisers decided to proceed with the opening ceremony even as the search for victims continued.

The result was laser shows and fireworks flashing above the disaster scene, drawing anger from some of the Australians.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday he felt the ceremony should have been stopped. Mr. Netanyahu left several minutes after the ceremony began.

The Maccabiah Games, which are to include competition in 36 sports from lawn bowling to ice hockey, were held under the banner of "100 years of Zionism."

German bank's Iran loan may bring sanctions — U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday it might have to invoke sanctions against a German bank if it determined that a reported loan to Iran had been executed and fell within U.S. law.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Washington had not yet made a decision.

"And so what we've got to do, I think, if this deal does go through, is assure ourselves of the specifics of the deal and then to see if it does fit in the framework of the sanctions," he told reporters.

"And if it does, I'm afraid the United States would have to take action. But we have not yet made that decision, because (a) we're not aware that this loan has been made — we know it's under consideration — and (b) we don't know all of the dimensions of the loan itself," he said.

German bank Westlb earlier on Monday refused to withdraw a loan it granted to Iran's offshore Engineering and Construction Co. Despite being warned by a U.S. senator that the deal would violate U.S. law, a Westlb spokesman said

the bank was not breaching any laws, because trade finance deals were not covered by the 1996 Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA).

Westlb belongs to a bank consortium that has lent the state-owned Iranian company \$90 million. Westlb's share of the loan is \$40 million.

The loan will be used to finance the acquisition of machinery and technical equipment from German, French and Belgian suppliers for development of the Souroukh oil field, the Westlb spokesman said. Burns said the ILSA

"states that any entity purchasing a share of ownership in the development of Iran's petroleum resources or entering into an agreement providing for participation in the earnings of such developments may be sanctionable under the Iran-Libya sanctions act."

As a result, "any investor in such a project... could be affected by the legislation," he said.

Mr. Burns said he "assumed" U.S. officials had discussed the issue with the German government.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran seizes half a tonne of drugs

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian authorities have seized 500 kilograms of opium in the northern Mazandaran province, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. Law enforcement officers also confiscated weapons, including a grenade and Kalashnikov rifles, during last week's drug haul, IRNA said. Large drug hauls and major sweeps of drug traffickers are common in Iran, which launched a crackdown on drugs in 1988. Hundreds of traffickers have been hanged since under a law that mandates the death sentence for anyone caught with more than a small amount of drugs. Twelve drug smugglers were publicly hanged in the northeastern Khorasan province, the Kayhan Daily reported Tuesday. Iran lies on a route used by traffickers to get drugs from Afghanistan and Pakistan to markets in the oil-rich Gulf and Europe.

Air stewardess appeals UAE jail term

DUBAI (R) — An Australian air stewardess held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on drugs charges since March has appealed against a four-year jail term imposed on her last month, an Australian diplomat said Tuesday. "Julia Alexander has appealed the prison sentence and we would offer her all the assistance she might need," John Yewdall, Australian consul-general in Dubai, told Reuters. The appeal will be heard on July 28. "While we respect the law of the United Arab Emirates and the right of any country to apply its laws, we are concerned that we have one of our nationals in jail," he said, stressing there would be no intervention at government level. Ms. Alexander, 25, was arrested in Dubai in March with two other people — a Lebanese and a UAE national — on charges of possessing Valium tablets and using marijuana. They were transferred to prison in neighbouring Sharjah emirate. Mr. Yewdall said Ms. Alexander was sentenced to four years in jail for using marijuana. Sources familiar with the case said the unnamed Lebanese received the same sentence.

Israeli court: Kindergartens must accept Arabs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that Tel Aviv must accept Arab children in public kindergartens previously reserved for Jews, a court spokesman said Tuesday. "Enrollment in a kindergarten should not be based on one's national group," the court judges ruled. The city said in response that it would allow residents to freely sign up for either Hebrew or Arabic-speaking kindergartens. The case was brought to court by the Israeli Association for Civil Rights in the name of a four-year-old Arab child refused admission to a Hebrew-speaking kindergarten in Jaffa in southern Tel Aviv. The association accused the city of offering better kindergartens for the Jewish population than for Arab residents. According to a report from the association published a month ago, Arab Israelis who number about 800,000 are the primary victims of discrimination in the country.

'2,000 minors sexually exploited in Israel'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — About 1,770 female minors are sexually exploited each year in Israel according to a report by the Association for the Defence of the Child, the Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday. In addition, some 100 young boys are used in the prostitution industry, it said. "They come to the big city without anything and quickly understand that prostitution is the only way of survival," the report said. Most of the youngsters were sexually abused by their parents and turned to prostitution as a means of survival. Most of those working in Tel Aviv — the centre of the sex trade — come from development or Arab towns, from broken, abusive and disadvantaged families. Girls are often brought into the sex trade as young as 11, while boys get into prostitution at about the age of 13, often persuaded by groups of youths to "try out" once for money. By the age of 16 they are often working full-time. The report will be presented as part of a paper on the sexual exploitation of minors in Israel to the government's Justice Assistant Abraham Karp.

Iraqi Kurdish group makes \$1m a day

DUBAI (AFP) — An Iraqi Kurd group is raking in at least \$1 million a day in profits from illegal trade across the Turkish border, the Iraqi opposition charged Tuesday. It said the bulk of the profits came from selling eight million litres of diesel oil on a daily basis to Turkish truck drivers crossing into Kurdish-held northern Iraq and from border taxes. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday takes 40 per cent of the \$800,000 in profits on diesel sales while the rest goes to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani, according to the Iraqi National Congress (INC). Imports of cigarettes, exports of wheat and smuggling alcohol into Iran are other lucrative sources for the KDP, the London-based INC said in a statement received in Dubai.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French Programmes
16:05 Neighbours
16:30 Spell Binder
17:30 Forests of the world
18:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Step by Step
20:00 Soldier's Diary
20:30 Challenges
21:10 Spencer For Hire
22:00 News in English
22:30 Land's End
23:15 American Gothic

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr
05:36 Sunrise/Duha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 Asr
19:47 Maghreb
21:20 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 66757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church

Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church

Tel. 5516345

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation

Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Mild weather conditions will prevail with temperatures lower than average by 3-4 degrees, centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Amman 18/28
Aqaba 25/38
Deserts 17/32

Jordan Valley

25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 29, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Issam Al Asmar 590994
Dr. Osama Al Hussein 847289
Dr. Khalid Klob 816715
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 590280
Al Asena pharmacy 657055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh 250895
Al Quds pharmacy 611111
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shahin 995176
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630541

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 677777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630521

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 676251

RJ Flight Information 08-53209

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52209

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre

81381332

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 643362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 645845

Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909900

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 Damascus (RJ)

09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

10:15 Laraca (RJ)

10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

17:30 Madrid (RJ)

18:05 Istanbul (RJ)

18:05 Paris (RJ)

18:40 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

19:05 Rome (RJ)

19:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:10 London, Berlin (RJ)

19:50 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

21:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

00:15 Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights

01:05 Cairo (RJ)

04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

09:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday decorates graduating Royal Air Force cadets with Royal Wings and presents certificates of appreciation to the graduates of Al Hussein Air Force College. Upon arrival, the King was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Miral Kaabneh, chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, and commander of Al Hussein Air Force College. Also attending the ceremony were Their Royal Highnesses Princes Hamzeh and Hashem, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdul Salam Majali, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Awa Khasawneh, Director of the State Security Council HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, senior civil and military officials, as well as several military attachés in Amman (Photo by George Crystal)

Queen to inaugurate children's congress

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will Saturday inaugurate the 17th Arab Children's Congress, joining children from 12 countries in the Arab World.

The ten-day conference, held under the theme "challenges and aspirations for future Arab generations," provides an opportunity for Arab children to learn about contemporary regional and international challenges, according to Congress Director Lina Tal.

It also imparts cultural

and historical ties linking Arab countries, she added.

Addressing a press conference Tuesday, Ms. Tal stated that the age of participants ranges between 13-14 years, unlike seminars held previously, when the age range was 10-12 years of age.

She described the congress' programme as including seminars and meetings with intellectuals and media personalities, such as Omar Al Khatib, who will be lecturing about economic and cultural chal-

lenges facing past generations.

It will also incorporate essay writing, drama and children's literature workshops as well as a 40-minute play to be shown at the closing ceremonies, Ms. Tal concluded.

Children from Lebanon, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Bahrain, Sudan, Egypt, Kuwait, Palestine and Jordan will be participating in the congress.

Since its initiation, upon

the initiative of Queen Noor in 1981, the congress has been held annually.

A total of 1,160 children have heretofore participated in the function, according to Executive Director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation Yaser Tal, who also addressed the press conference.

The congress is a unique cultural event which has proved successful in joining children from the Arab World to learn and interact with others, he concluded.

Princess opens international summer village

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Princess Basma Ali Tuesday opened the second Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) in Amman at the Modern American School.

"Estara Village '97" is named after the ancient city of Amman and means "brotherly love," a Royal Court statement said.

Delegations from Algeria, Brazil, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and the United States will be participating in the Amman summer village.

CISV Jordan President Anas Saket stated that the programme is "founded on the premise that peace is possible only when individuals and groups learn to live as friends with one another."

She added that, to that end, summer villages are prepared each year throughout the world to bring together groups of children and young people, representing different cultures, to live together.

"Learning about their common grounds and cultural differences, communication through a variety of activities, working and playing together, will all lead to cementing friendships and broadening their human and cultural relationships," she added.

CISV was founded in 1950 as an independent non-political volunteer organisation promoting peace education and cross-cultural friendships, according to the statement.

It operates primarily through education, offering young people who exhibit cooperative skills, communi-

cation abilities and leadership potential, the chance to become fully involved in its peace education programmes.

Each village is a unique 4-week multi-lingual camp for 12 delegations of four children of 11 years of age and an adult, where delegates mix in sport and educational and cultural activities.

Its activities focus on environmental conservation, human rights, global awareness and human relations, the statement said.

Since its establishment in Jordan in 1980, CISV has sent 382 Jordanian children to various countries around the world.

Over 1,046,789 delegates from 93 countries have participated in more than 3,112 CISV programmes, the statement concluded.

Qatari emir receives Tarawneh

DOHA (J.T.) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh was Tuesday received by Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani and the two reviewed Jordanian-Qatari relations as well as subjects under consideration by the Jordanian-Qatari Joint Committee currently convening in Doha.

In an interview with the Qatari News Agency, Dr. Tarawneh stated his hope that all Arab states would participate in the meeting.

Jordan is committed to participating in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Qatar in November, Dr. Tarawneh affirmed.

"We have already begun to prepare for the summit," he added.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh is received by Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani

The Kingdom merely awaits a formal invitation of attendance, according to the minister.

The Jordanian-Qatari Joint Committee Tuesday opened a two-day meeting in Doha to discuss coordination in dual taxation, the judiciary, investment promotion, and cooperation in electricity generation, health, trade, the economy and land and maritime transport.

The two sides are slated to discuss both a project to supply Qatari gas to Jordan via Aqaba and the Middle East peace process.

According to Dr. Tarawneh, the joint committee will also discuss the Doha economic summit.

Previous to his departure, the minister maintained Jordan's belief that the Doha summit would great-

ly benefit the private sector in its service as a platform where businesspersons from various nations can congregate to discuss economic and trade exchanges.

The committee meets annually to examine progress in the implementation of joint agreements.

Members are expected Wednesday to sign a number of agreements covering future cooperation, Dr. Tarawneh stated.

Describing Jordanian-Qatari relations as strong and progressing, the minister affirmed that Jordan maintains good relations with the Arab World and welcomes any improvement in communication amongst Arab countries.

Jordan supports the establishment of an Arab common market to enhance ties and work with challenges posed by the creation of major global economic blocs, Dr. Tarawneh added.

As the joint committee is discussing the peace process, Dr. Tarawneh maintained need for joint Arab action to overcome the deadlock in negotiations.

The Arab World summit held in Cairo last year emphasised a common strategy for achieving a lasting peace, he added.

Jordan and Qatar also signed an agreement regarding the establishment of a bilateral economic council grouping the

chambers of industry and trade in both countries.

The agreement was signed by Chairman of the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Trade Haidar Murad, Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Hassan and Chairman of the Qatari Chambers of Industry and Trade Sheikh Hamad Ben Jaseem Al Thani.

The agreement provides for both business communities to launch joint investment projects and boost trade and service exchanges as well as worker training and modern technology transfer.

The council groups 12 Qatari and Jordanian representatives of business communities.

Austrian president receives speaker

VIENNA (Petra) — Austrian President Thomas Cislil Tuesday received Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour at the Presidential Palace as well as members of an accompanying parliamentary delegation.

Mr. Srour conveyed His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan's best wishes to President Cislil, who praised Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process.

President Cislil maintained his country's support

for Jordan's objective policies as well as its efforts in establishing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The speaker also met Tuesday with his Austrian counterpart and several deputies and the group exchanged views regarding political and economic developments in the Middle East as well as bilateral relations.

The two sides agreed to continue contacts, consultation and exchange of views on the best means to enhance cooperation in the

interest of both nations.

Mr. Srour reviewed the regional political situation and detailed its impact on the general economy.

All parties, whether Arab or European, will be affected directly or indirectly by the political and economic situation of the region, he asserted.

Ali Abul Ragheb, member of the parliamentary delegation and former Minister of Industry and Trade, maintained that no sustainable, comprehensive, just and lasting peace can be established unless coupled

with stability and a strong economy, capable of securing a decent standard of living for citizens living therein.

Deputy Jamal Khreisha reviewed Jordan's democratic progress, maintaining that a consultative parliamentary system is part and parcel of such.

Deputy Anwar Hadid reviewed Jordan's platforms on Arab issues and causes, particularly that of the Palestinians.

Mr. Srour arrived here Sunday on a four-day visit.

Cabinet approves privatisation of national air carrier

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday reviewed recommendations of a ministerial committee regarding the restructuring and privatisation of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Kingdom's national air carrier, and approved a strategy for implementing the procedure.

Subsequent to the meeting, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi affirmed that the Cabinet approved both the proposed strategy for restructuring RJ as well as the registration of an airline company owned by the national carrier.

The latter will operate on a purely commercial basis after the process of restructuring has been completed, he added.

Last December, the government announced plans for a RJ debt-capital exchange as a first step to financially restructuring the company for eventual

privatisation.

This debt-capital exchange triples the airlines capital to JD 210 million and was an essential step to bring the company, \$650 million in debt, back to a financially sound position.

The bulk of the airline's debts were incurred through aircraft purchases and leases of its 17-plane fleet.

According to Dr. Mutawi, the Cabinet has resolved to form an executive task force to assume the process of restructuring and privatising the airline.

The Cabinet also approved an agreement to reschedule a Spanish loan to be paid in 20 semi-annual instalments beginning October 2008 at a 3.5 per cent interest rate.

It authorised Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez to sign the agreement.

The Cabinet approved payments of

Jordan's JD 450,000 fees to the United Nations to be taken from the state's 1997 fiscal budget.

It also endorsed the extension of a mandate allowing Egyptian workers until August 9 to obtain valid work permits (see related story).

The Cabinet endorsed a contract stipulating that a specialised Yugoslav company will build Al Mujib Dam and authorised the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General to negotiate with the Yugoslav government on the construction of the dam.

The agreement comes in implementation of repayment of debts due the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

The Cabinet approved Jordan's participation in the general assembly conference of the Arab Atomic Energy Commission, to open on August 5.

Minister of labour attends talks in Egypt

CAIRO (J.T.) — Minister of Labour Saleh Khasawneh Tuesday held talks with his Egyptian counterpart, Ahmad Amawi, on labour-related issues and later asserted that the situation of Egyptian workers in Jordan bode no reason for concern.

Egyptian workers contribute to production in Jordan and are respected and appreciated in the Kingdom, Dr. Khasawneh affirmed.

He stated that Jordanian and Egyptian governments maintain regular contact over matters pertaining to Egyptian workers in the Kingdom.

The recent meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo has resulted in the one month extension, ending August 9, of the deadline given to Egyptian workers to obtain valid work permits.

The two ministers also covered questions pertaining to Egyptian workers in Jordan, heretofore estimated at 230,000, according to Dr. Khasawneh.

Jordan granted work permits to 125,000 foreigners between March and June of this year and 90 per cent of these workers are Egyptian citizens, he added.

Dr. Khasawneh also stated that the two officials reviewed recent measures taken by the Egyptian Ministry of Labour which stipulated that any Egyptian travelling to Jordan for

work must obtain a work permit in advance.

Those persons travelling as tourists must produce a return ticket to Egypt plus a sum of \$150 for expenses, he added.

Jordan had originally granted a three-month time period to Egyptian workers, beginning last March, to obtain work permits.

The Kingdom then extended the mandate an additional 21 days, later followed by a one-month extension.

On July 8, Dr. Khasawneh estimated that 90,000 Egyptian workers had complied with the regulations and obtained work permits.

However, he stated that large numbers of non-Jordanian workers, including Egyptians, were still working without valid permits.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser Monday concurred that an estimated 350,000 foreign workers are currently employed in the Kingdom.

The majority of these workers are employed in construction, farming and domestic chores, he stated.

Discussions in Cairo also covered cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in vocational training, occupational safety and workers health care, according to Dr. Khasawneh.

The minister toured a number of Egyptian firms and examined worker employment conditions there.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CELEBRATIONS

• Celebrations will be held in Jordan and the United Kingdom to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the 1948 UN Partition Plan for Palestine.

• The Jordanian Ministry of Education will hold a series of seminars and workshops for teachers and school principals on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UN Partition Plan.

EXHIBITIONS

• The Jordanian Ministry of Education will hold a series of exhibitions in schools and universities across the country to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN Partition Plan.

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Minister addresses issue of engineering qualifications

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Naser Lawzi Tuesday stated the importance of restructuring the engineering consultancy and other related services in Jordan.

He also proposed the creation of national institutions to address issues related to engineering and prevent low engineering standards.

In a ceremony held at the Regency Palace Hotel to distribute qualifying certificates to group of engineering offices, the minister affirmed that raising engineering professional standards would prevent faulty planning, designs and construction.

The modernisation of legislation pertaining to construction work is a national requirement and one which contributes to socio-economic development, Mr. Lawzi affirmed.

Modernisation and upgrades of engineering offices must be implemented that local engineering offices might compete

with foreign institutions, he added.

Head of the Consultancy Engineering Offices Department at the Jordan Engineers' Association (JEA) Khaled Bourini stated that the government's understanding of issues connected with consultancy services in cooperation with the JEA have resulted in an arrangement that the government fairly distribute tenders for construction between local and foreign engineering offices.

Last year, 50 local consultancy firms won tenders for public works in Jordan — an increase from 30 firms in 1995, he maintained.

Mr. Lawzi distributed certificates to 80 newly-qualified engineering and consultancy offices.

The total number of such offices in Jordan now stands at 1,200 with a total employment of 10,000 workers, 5,500 of whom are engineers.

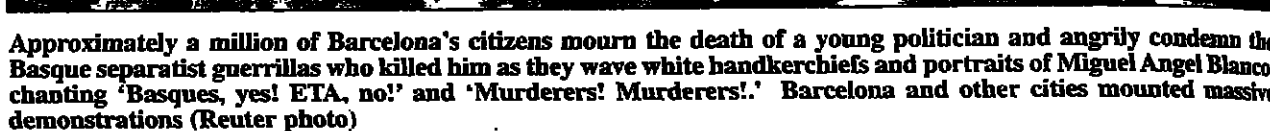
Jordan Times facsimile
#696183

MADRID (R) — Crowds demonstrated in the streets of Spain's major cities into the early hours of Tuesday, venting their anger and grief over the killing of a young politician by Basque separatist guerrillas.

Argentine Nobel Peace Laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel, who has mediated between the guerrillas and the government in the past, said he had contacted an ETA leader directly last

Millions stopped work at noon to observe 10 minutes'

In one telling moment, some members of the elite anti-ETA units of the Basque police defiantly stripped off the masks they normally wear to protect their identities and avoid retaliation.



SARAJEVO (R) — Nationalist Serb leaders in Bosnia have sharply condemned a U.N. tribunal for sentencing the first Serb found guilty of war crimes.

Russia, standing up for its Serb allies, told British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook that the NATO operation was "counter-productive"

from their homes and led a brutal siege of the capital Sarajevo, fear tougher international action to hold more of them accountable for their deeds during the 1992-

The blast in the hardline stronghold of Zvornik caused

The sentence was described as severe by defence lawyers, who argued Mr. Tadic was small fry

TOULON (R) — Anti-racist militants clashed with members of France's extreme-right National Front (FN) party Monday during a Bastille Day parade in the southern port of Toulon, eyewitnesses said.

The eyewitnesses said blows were exchanged as the anti-racists chanted "Liberty, Equality, Frater-

in the hands of the joint Mazar-i-Sharif, located could not survive," he said.

U.S. AIDS death rate continues to fall

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana told journalists and photographers following her on her luxury holiday on the French Riviera that her sons want her to leave Britain and should do. They want me to live abroad. I sit in London all the time and I am abused and followed wherever I go. Now I am being forced to move from here," the princess, who has been criticised for sharing a holiday with Mr. Fayed, the owner of top London department store Harrods, and the man blamed by opposition Con-

arm-in-arm, on his yacht, sparked criticism from politicians and right-wing editorial writers.

"Mr. Fayed is not the sort of person in whose defence

The provisional legislative council, sitting Wednesday, is almost certain to rubber stamp the government bill, freezing seven pre-handover laws until September so the

Last Wednesday the council approved a government bill allowing the deportation of thousands of child ill-

A week before the flag change, pro-democracy legislators and union bosses in the former elected Legisla-

states in its 39th article that standards set by the Geneva-based International Labour Conventions shall apply in

criticised moves to relax immigration laws, saying to do so would encourage more illegal immigrants.

minor, is suspected of striking a 10-year-old girl on the back of her head with a hammer at around noon on

February on two primary school girls in which one of them was slightly injured, the spokesman said.

Under the new area law, the boy can be detained in custody for another 20 days for further questioning.

World News

At least 77 dead

Regional leader — Ru

Mya students take



Picture taken off TV shows Indonesian rescue workers carrying the body of one of the victims of the ferry, the K.M. Peldatari, which sank Sunday night in Lake Toba, in Northern Sumatra. At least 77 people have been confirmed dead after the ferry capsized on the lake, which is a major tourist attraction in North Sumatra (Reuters photo)

At least 77 dead in Indonesia boat disaster

JAKARTA (AFP) — A heavily overloaded Indonesian boat sank in one of the world's deepest lakes killing at least 77 passengers and injuring 14, officials said Tuesday. At least 200 people were on the Peldatari when it sank Sunday night in Lake Toba in North Sumatra province, the officials said. Police were quoted as saying there should have been no more than 60 passengers on board.

One search and rescue official, quoted by the Antara news agency, said 50 people escaped alive, mostly by swimming 100 metres to the shore.

Antara said relatives had reported 108 people missing, adding that a grim search was still going Tuesday for the dozens of missing passengers. The boat did not have a sailing permit for the trip, the agency added.

The Peldatari was crossing from Parapat to Tomok, taking Tomok residents back from a cultural festival.

"We still do not know the exact number of passengers on board, but our initial estimate is at least 200 people," a district emergency centre official, Manuntun Sagala, told AFP.

"The search has now found 77 bodies," said another emergency official, who declined to be identified. The official added that another 14 people were being treated at a clinic in Tomok, a town on Samosir Island in the middle of Lake Toba.

The 1,707 square kilometre lake is the largest in Southeast Asia. With a depth of more than 450 metres, it is one of the deepest in the world. A Tomok hotel employee, who had been to the shore of Tomok, said the boat went down in about 25 metres of water.

"Most of the bodies have been identified and should today be returned to their families," Mr. Sagala said. He said at least 20 search and rescue experts were sent from the North Sumatran provincial capital of Medan Monday.

The Kompas daily reported the Peldatari started to leak around 8:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) Sunday when it was just 150 metres from Parapat Harbor. Only 15 passengers managed to swim ashore by themselves, the report said.

The daily reported that the two-deck boat, 15 metres long by six metres wide, was not fit to sail. The spokesman of the North Sumatra Office of Transportation, Rahman, was quoted by the Antara News Agency as saying the Peldatari possessed no sailing permit and had sailed off Thursday without the knowledge of local transport officials.

Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has officially confirmed that only one person — Hor Sok, one of Prince Ranariddh's security chiefs — had been killed voicing regret that it was unable to protect him from people who were "angry with him."

Meanwhile, Mr. Hun Sen's forces continued to push the retreating royalist troops further north towards the border with Thailand, as clashes flared intermittently.

"The FUNCINPEC forces and their Khmer Rouge allies are on the run and will soon have no choice but to lay down their arms," a senior CPP officer in Siem Reap told AFP.

Sources who had visited the shifting frontline area, which now lies about 110 kilometres northwest of Siem Reap, the site of the world famous Angkor Wat Temple complex, said the royalist troops were offering little resistance.

"Hardly a shot is being fired at the CPP, and most of the fighting by the CPP troops is just noisy and seems to be intended as a warning rather than as a military solution," a military analyst who visited the front said. "FUNCINPEC and the Khmer Rouge who appear to be with them are heavily outnumbered and don't appear to have any will to fight while neither side appears intent on causing casualties on the other," he added.

Prominent Cambodian dissident Sam Rainsy, however, called Tuesday for resistance to the rule of Hun Sen the "dictator."

In a personal appeal distributed in Thailand on the border area of Cambodia, Mr. Sam Rainsy said: "I urge the Cambodian people to organise themselves in order to resist

Royalists tortured, executed in Cambodia, sources say

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Royalist supporters held by the forces of Cambodia's powerful co-Premier Hun Sen have been tortured and at least 35 executed, sources said Tuesday as fighting continued in the north.

At least four men held by Mr. Hun Sen's forces — bodyguards of first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh's top military commander — had their eyes gouged out, the sources said citing witnesses.

Others were killed with their hands bound behind their backs, they said.

Officials in the government of Second Prime Minister Hun Sen were unavailable for comment on the reports.

But co-Minister of Defence Tea Banh was quoted in Cambodia Daily denying any extra-judicial killings had been ordered.

Prince Ranariddh travelled abroad unexpectedly on July 4, on the eve of two days of street battles in which Mr. Hun Sen's forces seized control of the capital.

Most of the royal family and cabinet have since fled joining a mass exodus of foreigners from the country, amid fears of reprisals and a deteriorating human rights situation.

The sources said that in addition to the executions, hundreds of regular soldiers from the prince's royalist FUNCINPEC party had been arrested and were being held in military compounds in at least two provinces.

Reports from six provinces also indicated there had been systematic roundups of FUNCINPEC supporters and troops with at least 400 soldiers in custody, the sources said.

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"Hardly a shot is being fired at the CPP, and most of the fighting by the CPP troops is just noisy and seems to be intended as a warning rather than as a military solution," a military analyst who visited the front said. "FUNCINPEC and the Khmer Rouge who appear to be with them are heavily outnumbered and don't appear to have any will to fight while neither side appears intent on causing casualties on the other," he added.

Prominent Cambodian dissident Sam Rainsy, however, called Tuesday for resistance to the rule of Hun Sen the "dictator."

In a personal appeal distributed in Thailand on the border area of Cambodia, Mr. Sam Rainsy said: "I urge the Cambodian people to organise themselves in order to resist

tyranny." He arrived in Thailand Monday from Paris on what he said was a mission to help members of his Khmer Nation Party (KNP) trying to flee Cambodia.

But with Mr. Hun Sen tightening his grip on the country, some nations have been adopting a pragmatic approach to the new realities on the ground.

Japan Tuesday urged FUNCINPEC to adopt a new co-premier, voicing hopes that Mr. Hun Sen would then form another coalition.

"It will be consistent as a matter of form if his group (FUNCINPEC) selects a new first premier on behalf of First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said.

He was cautious about whether Japan would recognise the new Hun Sen leadership, saying it would wait to see.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis intensified however with ailing King Norodom Sihanouk meeting French envoy Claude Martin in Beijing in the first of a series of meetings with special envoys.

The king, who has so far said he was powerless to intervene in the crisis, will also meet in the coming days with envoys from Japan, the United States and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

They may try to persuade him to return home to get Cambodia's peace process back on track and act as a kind of guarantor for elections which should be held next year, informed sources in Beijing said.

But the king, who has battled cancer and is now recovering following cataract surgery, said he had only accepted against his will to meet the foreign envoys.

Australia suspended military aid to Cambodia Tuesday and expressed concern about the execution of supporters of Prince Ranariddh, who was ousted in last week's coup.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the cabinet had agreed to suspend two million dollars (\$1.5 million) of military aid but had withheld a decision about a 32 million dollar general aid programme which would depend on the policies of the new Cambodian government.

He added that Australia's contribution to mine-clearing operations in Cambodia would remain.

Mr. Downer said Australian recognition of Mr. Hun Sen's regime was not an issue, as Australia recognised states not governments.

He told reporters Canberra's recognition did not signal approval of Mr. Hun Sen's actions, but it did allow Australia to maintain a presence in Cambodia and keep contact with its government.

"The government has made clear its view that Hun Sen's overthrow of his coalition partner and First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh by military action was completely unacceptable," Mr. Downer added.

He said the future of Australia's relationship with Cambodia hinged on the government's commitment to the U.N.-brokered Paris Peace Accords and Cambodian constitution, and the formulation of a broad-based government which included representatives of Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party.

Regional leader — Russia's Caucasus tense

MOSCOW (R) — The president of Russia's ethnic Republic of Ingushetia warned Monday that a simmering conflict with a neighbouring Caucasus region had worsened sharply, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

It said Ingush President Ruslan Aushev had sent a cable to Kremlin leader Boris Yeltsin saying the dispute between his people and that of Northern Ossetia "could become uncontrollable any minute."

The tension between the two regions bordering Chechnya, which erupted into fighting in 1992 that killed 200 people and sparked a huge flow of refugees, was overshadowed by a bloody war in 1994-1996 between Russian troops and Chechen separatists.

The ITAR-TASS report gave no details of the tension but recent Russian media reports have said there had been clashes between Ingushis trying to return to their native land which is controlled by North Ossetia.

The seeds of the conflict lie in Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's deportation of Ingushis to Central Asia in World War II. Much of their land was taken over by Ossetians but in the early 1990s Ingushis tried to return.

When fighting erupted in 1992, over 50,000 Ingushis fled through the snowy hills, some of them barefoot, to escape the fighting, creating a serious refugee problem in tiny Ingushetia.

Mr. Aushev asked Mr. Yeltsin in his message Monday to send a special government commission to the region and said: "If the federal authorities do not take effective measures, this could lead to unpredictable consequences."

The Caucasus, a mountainous region inhabited by numerous tribes, was conquered by Russia in the 19th century only after decades of struggle with warrior clans. It is full of weapons, especially after the Chechen conflict.

In a separate report, TASS said Ivan Rybkin, secretary of Mr. Yeltsin's powerful Security Council, had arrived in Ingushetia and might meet Chechen leaders there. It did not say whether Mr. Rybkin would tackle the Ingush-Ossetian tensions.

There was no immediate reaction from Ossetia, much more populous than Ingushetia and traditionally seen in the Caucasus as one of the regions more loyal to the Kremlin.

73 and in power since 1978. But he is widely expected to win elections against an opposition that has found a fragile cohesion in reform demands.

Mr. Moi said last Friday he would take action against any attempt to bring chaos to the country and challenged the opposition to take the debate on reforms to parliament, where his ruling party has a majority.

In Mombasa, Muslim preacher Sheikh Balala, a fierce critic of Mr. Moi, said he would tour the city and visit schools Tuesday, after returning from two years in exile.

Mr. Balala returned to Kenya Saturday from exile in Germany vowing to spearhead a reform campaign.

"I don't recognise the forthcoming elections and I would rather voters burned their registration cards," Mr. Balala told a crowd of around 1,000 at the Sakina Mosque in the Indian Ocean port.

His aides said a planned "illegal" rally in Mombasa Tuesday had been called off.

Bangladesh flood toll passes 100 mark

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods have killed at least 104 people in Bangladesh, including 19 who drowned after a boat capsized in a swollen river, officials and police said Tuesday.

They said the 19 people missing for four days after the boat sank on the Sangu River were now believed to have drowned.

"We can no longer keep them on the missing list although their bodies have not been found yet. It's now certain that they have perished in the river," one official said.

Most of the other victims died in landslides and house cave-ins, police said. They said the death toll could rise further as detailed reports were awaited from many areas still cut off by the floods.

"Floodwaters have started receding in most of the 19 affected districts and we expect conditions to improve soon," one official said.

Meteorology officials said Tuesday they did not expect further rainfall through the rest of the week.

Disaster management officials said over 2.5 million people were affected by the floods, triggered by heavy monsoon rains. At least 250,000 were made homeless and 500,000 marooned in their partly submerged homes.

Agriculture officials said crops in 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares) had been washed away. In addition, huge foodgrain stocks were damaged by floodwaters, they said, without giving exact estimates.

Besides crops, thousands of hectares of shrimp farms and other fish projects have been washed away, causing substantial damage, officials said.

"It's still early to assess the losses. But we guess total flood damage including crops, property and infrastructure would be no less than 10 billion taka (\$229 million)," one official in Chittagong told Reuters.

Orange Order hall torched as N. Irish talks resume

BELFAST (R) — Arsonists gutted an Orange Order hall early Tuesday in what its members said was a slap in the face for landmark concessions it made last week in Catholic areas of Northern Ireland.

"It was petrol-bombed and gutted. The only things that were not destroyed were the lodge's Bible and the Union (Jack) flag," William Bingham, the Orange Order chaplain, told the BBC.

Fire destroyed the hall near Pomeroy, 80 kilometres west of Belfast, five days after the pro-British order defused Catholic anger by deciding not to route four of its marches through Catholic areas on its most cherished anniversary.

"The Orange Order has made a tremendous gesture over recent weeks. It has been greeted with derision by (Irish) Republicans and nationalists," he complained.

Mr. Bingham recalled that Catholics had threatened to stage mass counter demonstrations to protest against the order's annual marches last week, saying they were intimidation.

"They say we need their (Catholic) consent to walk (March). Now they say we need their consent to live in the area," said Mr. Bingham, who said Protestants would not be driven out.

The fire, the 109th attack against Orange Order halls in recent years, provided a sombre backdrop for multi-party Northern Ireland peace talks which resume in Belfast Tuesday.

Tuesday's session is overshadowed by a row over the British government's admission that it has been in contact with Sinn Fein, political wing of Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting British rule of the province.

Britain and Ireland broke off contacts with Sinn Fein after the IRA shot dead two policemen in an ambush a month ago, days after British troops had reopened contacts in an attempt to get the IRA to restore a broken 17-month ceasefire.

The severing of preliminary contacts was announced by Britain's Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair and repeated in parliament by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam.

But Mrs. Mowlam said Monday her civil servants had in fact been in touch with Sinn Fein by telephone and in writing three times after Sinn Fein sought clarification on the talks and the requirements for its admission to them.

David Trimble, leader of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the biggest in the province, said he would be asking Mrs. Mowlam to explain the about-turn.

"It would now be appropriate for the secretary of state to come to the House (of Commons) and to explain why she misled the House in the way that she did," he said.

U.S., South Korea coax North Korea to detente

SEOUL (R) — The United States and South Korea are trying to coax Stalinist North Korea towards detente ahead of landmark four-nation talks next month, North Korea-watchers said Tuesday.

In a goodwill gesture, Washington Monday doubled its food aid to North Korea and announced a private visit to Pyongyang by two former senior U.S. officials.

"This is a big gift to the famine-threatened North," said Chon Hyun-Joon, chief researcher at the state-funded Research Institute for National Unification in Seoul.

"The U.S. is signalling it can improve ties with Pyongyang if Kim Jong-Il is serious about peace talks," said analyst Lee Ki-Won of the Private Institute of North Korea Studies.

Senior officials from the two Koreas, the United States and China are due to meet in New York on Aug. 5 to set an agenda and other details for four-nation talks aimed at thrashing out a permanent peace settlement on the Korean peninsula.

Analysts said North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il faced the urgent task of easing hunger in his country before he formally assumed top state and party posts left vacant by the death three years ago of his father, "Great Leader" Kim Il-Sung.

A week ago, Pyongyang announced the end of mourning for Kim Il-Sung, paving the way for the son to take over as state president and general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party.

Responding quickly to the latest appeal by the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) last week, the United States pledged \$27 million in food aid, bringing to \$52 million its 1997 contribution.

The assistance, accounting for more than half the \$46 million sought in the latest WFP appeal, comprises 45,000 tonnes of grain to be donated to the U.N. agency and 55,000 tonnes to be delivered directly by U.S. private voluntary organisations.

"It is significant the U.S. is handing over relief supplies directly," Mr. Chon said. "It is a symbolic move indicating that the U.S. could start expanding business with the North by gradually easing economic sanctions."

Washington denies its food aid is linked to peace talks.

But both U.S. and Seoul officials expressed hope that their concern for Pyongyang's plight and good faith in delivering on promised help would create a better atmosphere for peace talks.

Lee Yong-Joon, a director at South Korea's Foreign Ministry, said Seoul would ask two former senior U.S. officials invited by North Korea to carry its message to Pyongyang leaders.

Former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, who once headed the Senate Armed Services Committee, and James Laney, who just retired as U.S. ambassador to South Korea, will visit Pyongyang on July 20-22, accompanied by U.S. government experts.

Mr. Lee Yong-Joon noted that South Korea had offered large-scale economic assistance to the North if it was prepared to take steps to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula.

"We would offer more wide-ranging aid to the North to fundamentally improve agricultural output, encourage investment and expand trade and other exchanges," Mr. Lee told Reuters.

Mr. Nunn and Mr. Laney were expected to focus their discussions with Pyongyang leaders on peace talks, although bilateral U.S.-North Korean issues would also be covered, Mr. Lee said.

South Korea, for its part, bought 50,000 tonnes of Chinese corn at the weekend to aid North Korea as part of \$16 million of food aid it has promised to the WFP.

The South Korean Red Cross, which is shipping this month the last consignment of another 50,000 tonnes of food aid to the North, has offered talks with its North Korean counterpart to discuss additional supplies.

Kenya students take to streets for 2nd day

NAIROBI (R) — Hundreds of Kenyan students took to the streets of Nairobi for the second consecutive day Tuesday to demand the resignation of President Daniel Arap Moi and constitutional reforms.

"Moi must go. We want reforms," chanted students from Kenya Polytechnic as they seized control of Haile Selassie Avenue, a major highway through the city.

But Tuesday's demonstration appeared peaceful and there were no immediate reports of clashes with police.

Authorities shut the institution late Monday after clashes between some 3,000 students and police. The students have defied the closure order and turned up for classes Tuesday.

The Polytechnic students said they were in solidarity with their university colleagues and are backing growing calls for constitutional reforms.

The government shut the country's two main universities last week after students, heeding opposition demands for constitutional reforms, battled police and paramilitary forces.

Opposition-backed groups have campaigned since April for constitutional reforms before presidential elections this year. No date is set for the polls.

Five people were wounded in Monday's clashes between riot police and students.

Two students, two passers-by and a journalist were wounded as police wielding batons and firing live ammunition and tear gas moved onto the campus.

The students were protesting against a new bill that provided for expulsion for non-payment of fees and revised charges for exams. They also demanded constitutional reform.

Fourteen people were arrested during the disturbances and would be charged Tuesday, police said.

Monday's clashes were confined to Haile Selassie Avenue and did not halt business in central Nairobi, unlike disturbances on July 7 in the capital and other towns and cities.

Nine people were killed in those clashes, the most serious civil disturbances since a 1990 campaign to press for constitutional reforms.

Political analysts say reforms would reduce the power of Mr. Moi, 73 and in power since 1978. But he is widely expected to win elections against an opposition that has found a fragile cohesion in reform demands.

Mr. Moi said last Friday he would take action against any attempt to bring chaos to the country and challenged the opposition to take the debate on reforms to parliament, where his ruling party has a majority.

In Mombasa, Muslim preacher Sheikh Balala, a fierce critic of Mr. Moi, said he would tour the city and visit schools Tuesday, after returning from two years in exile.

Mr. Balala returned to Kenya Saturday from exile in Germany vowing to spearhead a reform campaign.

"I don't recognise the forthcoming elections and I would rather voters burned their registration cards," Mr. Balala told a crowd of around 1,000 at the Sakina Mosque in the Indian Ocean port.

His aides said a planned "illegal" rally in Mombasa Tuesday had been called off.

U.S., South Korea coax North Korea to detente

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Dialogue should replace exchange

THAT THE government has put its foot down and told the Muslim Brotherhood that parliamentary elections will be held with or without their participation is not all that surprising. The elections should be held and held on time. That is a public demand and part and parcel of any democratic practice. Should parties and individuals decline to participate, that would be unfortunate. The government is within its jurisdiction to state that elections will be conducted regardless of participation. But it should have worked a little harder on responding to some of the Brotherhood's complaints.

Some of the government's rationalisations regarding the opposition group's objections to temporary laws, and thus its decision to boycott the elections, were feeble at best.

Despite the fact that the Brotherhood's demands are tough and difficult to meet, some of its complaints are justified, at least as far as it is concerned. The introduction of the one-person, one-vote system, that the Brotherhood wants repealed, was enough to change the face of Parliament significantly. The law's allocation of seats cannot be argued as being equitably representative in terms of population size.

While we agree with the government that peace is Jordan's only strategic option, we think that its response to the Brotherhood's discontent with the temporary Press and Publications Law was nothing more than a simple reiteration of its original stand. But has the law succeeded in halting "deterioration in the performance of the press," as the government purports was its purpose? Does it really believe that shutting down papers will serve the cause of peace, make for more accurate reporting, better presented work, more balanced editorials and informed commentary?

The government's statement also attempts to mock the Brotherhood's demand that the temporary laws be repealed by saying that in order to repeal them, other temporary laws would have to be issued. This sort of tautology flies in the face of constructive dialogue. Temporary laws are enacted in cases that "require immediate action," according to the Constitution. If the situation at hand does not require immediate action, then what situation actually does?

What is comforting, however, is that the government has expressed its readiness to enter into dialogue with the Brotherhood or any other party. And that is precisely what should replace the exchange of statements and counterstatements heretofore issued by both sides.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY BANNING the Iraqi athletes from the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut, the Lebanese government has joined the nations that are maintaining an unjust embargo on the Iraqi people and not on the Iraqi regime, according to a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm. Describing the Lebanese government's attitude as shameful, Fuad Abu Hileh said that it is most saddening to see Lebanon, which itself suffers from the Israeli occupation of part of its land, join other countries that are determined to perpetuate the sufferings of the Iraqi nation. In the writer's view, no matter how many gold and other medals will be distributed to the athletes participating in the Beirut event, the games are to be considered a total failure in the sense that it has been politicised and void of fair play. He said that regardless of the reasons given by the Lebanese government for banning the Iraqis from the games, Beirut has no right to imposing the ban because the invitations were sent to Arab countries by the Arab League. The writer said that it is sad to see the Arab countries join the new world order and turn their back to all the dreams of achieving Arab unity or, at least, solidarity among the Arab countries.

ISRAEL AND the United States are struggling to convene the Doha economic summit and trying desperately to separate politics from economy and to convince the Arabs that they benefit from meeting the Israelis, said Oreib Rintawi, a writer for Al Dustour. Not only has Israel blocked a political solution by defaulting on the implementation of the peace accords with the Palestinians, it has also prevented the implementation of economic and trade agreements it had signed with Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and prevented Jordan from trading with the Palestinians, said the writer. He said that the economic and political aspects of the Middle East peace process are closely linked and one cannot be tackled in the absence of the other; he added that Israel has killed, or frozen, the Aqaba peace airport and projects in the Jordan Rift Valley and prevented regional cooperation, all for political reasons. The writer said that the Doha summit is economic in nature but closely linked to progress in the peace process which is deadlocked. Therefore, the Doha summit, said the writer, should not be held or, if it must, then it can be held without Israeli participation.

Washington Watch

Violence: The American nightmare

By Dr. James J. Zogby

THE INNER-city killings of Arab store owners continue to plague our community, with new reports of murders in New York and Ohio. Each new incident is a fresh reminder of the continuing problem of violence that affects all America.

U.S. law enforcement officials and political leaders have reported some improvement in recent years. Both murder rates and number of violent crimes have declined, continuing a downward trend that began in 1994. The annual drop averages a few percentage points each year, leaving 1993's 23,271 murders and 1.8 million violent crimes the decade's high-point.

Politicians disagree as to the cause of this slight but steady decline during the past four years. Some point to tougher law enforcement policies and increases in the number of law enforcement personnel. Others point to a steadily improving economy and the rapid increase in the number of jobs available.

Despite these improvements, however, there is general agreement that violent crime remains an American nightmare and a continuing crisis that threatens the quality of life for all Americans.

The statistics are staggering. Even with the decline in the number of murders, which this year may drop below 20,000 for the first time in eight years, it is shocking that over 210,000 Americans have been murdered in the past decade, and over 17,000,000 Americans have been victims of violent crimes during the same period. The category of violent crimes includes: aggravated assault, robbery, murder and rape.

So disturbing are these overall statistics that the prestigious American Sociological Association (ASA) undertook a three-year study of the problem. The report of their findings, entitled "Social Causes of Violence," is an effort to answer the question: "What causes the extraordinarily high levels of violence in

U.S. society?"

The ASA study is a straightforward presentation of data on all aspects of violence in the U.S., coupled with several important observations, conclusions and recommendations for further study.

Some of the more unsettling observations found in the study are:

1. "The high level of serious violence appears to be uniquely 'American'... rates of violence are much higher in the U.S. than in any other industrialised nation."

2. "American society is engulfed in a world of violence. Crime is rampant, the incidence of child and spouse abuse is staggering and violence exists in all segments of communities across the nation."

3. "People have become accustomed to the grim nature of violence in our society and particularly to the horrifying nature of specific highly publicised acts of homicide and brutality. The senseless carnage and random murders in schools, restaurants, shopping malls, and suburban commuter trains; robbery attempts against tourists; injuring and killing of children caught in the crossfire of gang warfare; and random drive-by shootings are the kinds of incidents that generate public outrage and reinforce that perception that there are no longer any safe havens."

No aspect of social life, whether households, schools, health care facilities, recreation centres, work places, or businesses, and no geographical locations... are free from violence.

4. "A big social cost of violence... is the widespread fear that it looms... the general insecurity and feeling of being threatened by violence and the widely held view that no place is safe have produced an incalculable toll on the quality of contemporary American life."

While the ASA report calls for more extensive research into the social causes of the pervasive violence, it does make several initial assessments:

1. Regional factors are important.

The south of the U.S. has a significantly higher crime rate than any other region of the U.S. Despite its smaller population, the south has 37.4 per cent of all U.S. crime. And crime among southern whites is significantly higher than among northern whites.

Likewise, urban areas have much greater crime rates than rural areas — over four times higher. In both instances, a factor that may account for the difference is the extent of poverty and social dislocation which are greater in cities and in the south than in other areas of the U.S.

2. The importance of economics and race.

Murder is the leading cause of death among African American youth. And although African Americans account for only 12 per cent of the U.S. population, they represent half of the homicide victims.

But the ASA study notes that "differences in white/black victimisation rates disappear in higher income neighbourhoods. Thus, what may appear to be race factors are more a function of conditions emanating from economic deprivation and lack of employment opportunities and from the quality of life and social circumstances in low-income communities."

3. Violence is increasing among youth.

Violence is increasing rapidly among American

youth, while it is declining among older Americans, and is becoming a serious problem in U.S. schools.

A study cited by the ASA report notes that 135,000 guns are brought into U.S. schools each day. And each month, 2.4 million high school students have something stolen from them while 282,000 are attacked, and 5,200 teachers are attacked (with 1,000

"It is estimated that American children watch more hours of television yearly than they spend in school. It is also estimated that during that time they see thousands of acts of violence, including murder on cartoon shows, dramas and adventure programmes. Statistics suggest that this pervasive violence in the media produces an acceptance of violence and, in some cases, increases aggressive behaviour."

receiving medical attention).

4. Drugs and guns are critical factors.

One half of all violent crimes (almost 900,000 incidents) and over 70 per cent of all murders (almost 15,000 annually) involve the use of guns. In addition, almost 40 per cent of all homicides are drug-related.

5. Breakdown of families and communities is important.

Sociological studies show that when the important social control mechanisms of families and neighbourhoods are destroyed, violence increases.

Where there is social disorganisation, there will be violence. This is especially a problem in inner cities where there is a systemic overcrowding, long-term unemployment and poverty.

6. Mass media plays a role.

Many recent studies show that there is a strong connection between exposure to television violence and aggressive behaviour. It is estimated that American children watch more hours of television yearly than they spend in school. It is

also estimated that during that time they see thousands of acts of violence, including murder on cartoon shows, dramas and adventure programmes. Statistics suggest that this pervasive violence in the media produces an acceptance of violence and, in some cases, increases aggressive behaviour.

In fact, violence has been a pervasive problem in America since the birth of our nation. A generation ago, a prominent U.S. publishing company issued a series of historical studies on violence in American life. The series included studies on violence in: the revolutionary war; the conquest of the "frontier"; the period of slavery and the "wars" against the Indians and the Spanish; the civil war; the battles against the labour movement; the development of organised crime and urban gangs; and the urban unrest in the 1960s.

They called the series "The Cherry Pie" books because of their belief that "violence was tragically as American as cherry pie."

There are consequences to this history of violence. America is a free society that has provided political and economic opportunity for countless millions. But when these opportunities have been denied, violence has occurred. And this violence, in the end, benefits no one. It has become an endemic plague.

What the ASA study points to is the need to: — repudiate the culture that glorifies violence or makes it appear normal; — protect and foster social institutions (the family, neighbourhoods and religious centres) that spread and preserve social values; — eliminate guns and drugs from society; and — provide economic opportunity for all in our society.

While this study and its recommendations are based on the American society, surely there are lessons here that can be instructive for other societies as well.

"We have to recognise each other's suffering and put it behind us."

The Greek Cypriots, who are prepared to accept a federal system, favour a strong central government, freedom of movement, settlement and ownership of property throughout the island and demilitarisation. Denktash, who dominates the Turkish Cypriot political scene, speaks of federation

but insists on confederation or a very loose federation which would solidify the geographic separation of the two communities. He conditions progress in the talks on recognition of his northern sovereignty statelet (recognised only by Turkey) and acceptance of firm Turkish security guarantees for the Turkish Cypriots. While the international community is prepared to accept his first two demands, separate sovereignty has been rejected and alternative security guarantees, involving NATO or U.S. forces, have been proposed.

The prospects for a Cyprus settlement are better than ever. While EU accession and Russian missiles have concentrated minds on the international scene, Greece and Turkey have reached an accommodation on the disputed Aegean where their navies came close to conflict early in the 1990s.

The current Greek government of Prime Minister Costas Simitis has been very supportive of the Cyprus peace process. Furthermore, Turkey now has a secular coalition determined to secure Turkish membership in the EU and the Turks

know this will not be granted as long as Ankara has 35,000 troops occupying the northern third of Cyprus.

However, Turkey, which has blocked previous attempts to reach a settlement, could do so again. The Turkish army is reluctant to pull its troops out of Cyprus, which the military regards as

the country's "soft underbelly". The new Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz scuttled a 1991 attempt by the U.S. to convene "four power" settlement talks involving the two communities and Greece and Turkey. And, Bulent Ecevit, deputy prime minister in this coalition, as prime minister in 1974, ordered the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, following a coup against the Greek junta. Apropos the current effort, Ecevit said that Turkey would be "the shield to face any pressure exerted on the Turkish Cypriot side during the talks."

By "Turkish Cypriot side" he meant the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, who is determined to preserve his separate state and remain its president.

But according to Adil Nami, president of the Cyprus Turkish Peace Association, Denktash and Ankara are under pressure from 75 per cent of Turkish Cypriots who want a solution now. "We see this as our last chance because if we don't have a solution soon there will be no Turkish Cypriots left. Many have emigrated and been replaced by 70,000 mainland Turkish settlers who have no interest in a settlement with the Greek Cypriots. The Greek Cypriot authorities recognise this fact and are eager for a settlement, though this is not true of some Greek Cypriots who refuse to contemplate reconciliation with former compatriots before the Turkish army has withdrawn from Cyprus. We have to recognise each other's suffering," asserted Adil Nami, "and put it behind us."

At the time I recommended to the heroine that the parcel should be entrusted to a traveller who would go to the country of destination and there place the parcel in the post. However, she was cleverer than that. Taking the good advice of the postal clerk, as well as mine, she proceeded to throw them to the four winds and made her way to a different post office which accepted the same parcel without question, but this time for a fee of eight and a half dinars, three more than the first, which only goes to show that there is a purse there is a way.

Where there is a purse there is a way

By Ali Kassay

AS A rule, I do not like sequels. If the original idea was good, then expectations rise of something even better in the sequel, which is not always easy to achieve. Something just as good would simply be found inadequate. On the other hand, when the original output is bad, it is best left alone rather brought back to life in a vain effort to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

This is why I permit myself to take issue with producers of horror movies, who, in the eighties, churned out sequels whose numbers reached double figures in a relentless attempt to achieve the highest penny-per-gallon-of-tomato-ketchup rate of return. Personally, I am of the opinion that any theme can be adequately handled in one attempt. Whether the location of the horror story is Transylvania, Elm Street or a Jordanian bureau of public service, one should be firm and resist the temptation of a second call.

This week, however, I shall digress from this golden rule, for the reason that the heroine of the saga at the post office that I described in last week's column came to me with fresh information that makes my article incomplete and somewhat unjust. Therefore, in the spirit of fair play, I stand corrected and I present the correct story hereunder.

I left the story last week at the point where the post office clerk refused to accept an envelope containing a garment which the sender was willing to despatch at letter rate, rather than brave the fate that awaited her at the parcels office downtown, where she would pay the considerably cheaper parcel rate. However, the post officers were too clever. They are made of sterner stuff. They did not get to where they are today by allowing citizens to get away with doing the thing that is convenient to them, even if these people are willing to part with hard-earned money in order to buy peace of mind.

I omitted to mention, however, that the postal clerk had negotiated with her a charge of five and a half dinars for the despatch of the envelope. I left out this piece of information because, in the end, it was decided that the envelope contained cloth and therefore it could not be sent as a letter at all.

The client was informed that she had to go to the parcels office downtown and spend a day going through the complex process necessary for the parcel to be sent, or, not, as the case may be. For instance, I am still waiting for a parcel containing a pair of shoes for my father, now deceased, which I had sent him when I was an undergraduate student more years ago than it would flatter me to remember. Since I sent the parcel by registered mail, the British postal service was able to satisfy me that it left for Jordan and at some point it proceeded to disappear with such efficiency that Harry Houdini could learn a thing or two from it in the way of technique.

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Rare Early Bronze Age settlements in north Jordan Valley help reconstruct ancient economies, lifestyles

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

FIFTEEN YEARS after their initial three seasons of excavations in the north Jordan Valley in 1982-85, an American-led team of archaeologists from Arizona State University resumed digging at several Early Bronze Age sites this year and has confirmed the well preserved remains of a substantial farming settlement from the Early Bronze Age IV era. The site is noteworthy because we have very little evidence for permanent village or town life during the EBIV period (c.2300-1950 BC), when the walled towns from the previous EBII and EBIII periods seem to have suddenly gone out of use. The reasons for this precipitous decline in urbanism are not known, but are presumed to reflect economic decline (especially a drop in trade with Egypt), political turbulence, environmental distress or a combination of these factors.

The Jordan Valley Village project, co-directed by Steven Falconer, Jennifer Jones and Patricia Fall of Arizona State University, has been examining ancient village economy in the valley during the Early and Middle Bronze Age periods. Excavations in the early 1980s examined the Middle Bronze II site of Tell Hayyat and made only a limited sounding at the EBIV site of Tell Abu Al Ni'aj, in the valley's broad agricultural plain just north of Wadi Yabis and south of the well-known site of Pella.

The December 1996/January 1997 season exposed a large area of architecture at Tell Abu Al Ni'aj, and also tested the nearby sites of Dhahret Umm Al Marar

and Umm Al Ba'ir, which are hilltop sites in the lower eastern foothills of the valley.

Public and private spaces

The Tell Abu Al Ni'aj dig revealed a substantial village measuring some 2.5 hectares, with clearly differentiated domestic units, industrial/storage areas, and public spaces. Distinct public spaces included two streets or alleyways that were covered, perhaps even "paved", with pottery shards. The streets were about 1.5 metres wide at the start of the EBIV period, and towards its end they reached 2.5 metres wide (perhaps to accommodate carts?). The architecture could be divided into four (possibly five) different phases, Falconer and Jones told the Jordan Times in Amman in a recent interview.

All structures were built with moulded earth or rammed earth/mudbrick techniques, with no evidence of stone structures. Inside the homes were remains of clay- or mud-lined storage pits that measured up to half a metre deep and were often clustered together. They were all empty and usually found in association with charred floor surfaces, but their function remains unclear.

One mud-brick circular installation seems like it could have been a press of some sort, perhaps for olives or grapes. Among the agricultural and cultural remains excavated at Abu Al Ni'aj are clay animal figurines, pottery vessels, stone tools, hand-held grinding stones and querns, thousands of domesticated animal bones (mostly sheep, goat, pig and cattle),

a few wild fauna bones (birds, fish, small carnivores), and carbonised seeds.

Many of the mudbrick houses were repeatedly remodelled in the later phases of the village. Architectural continuity in many areas includes walls that continue from one phase of the village's life to the next, suggesting continuity of occupation to the excavators. The lowest (oldest) level showed evidence of EBIII pottery — probably from a settlement at the transition period between EBIII and EBIV. No fortification walls have been identified to date.

Hilltop, foothills settlements

The test trenches at Dhahret Umm Al Marar showed it to be a single period EBIV site with stone architecture and a double-stone, one-metre-wide wall

surrounding the settlement (with some 110 metres of the wall still in place). Wall lines from several large stone structures are visible on the surface, and may comprise the remains of public buildings on the summit of the hill.

Excavations downslope revealed remains of houses, with over 30 ceramic vessels (mostly storage jars) dug into one floor surface. The depth of the remains, however, is less than half a metre, and thus little floral or faunal data could be recovered from the limited excavations this year. Multiple architectural phases within the EBIV period could also be identified here, but the length of the settlement's life cannot be determined without further excavation. The most important material remains obtained from this site



Arizona State University archaeologist Kim Sonderegger cleans off an Early Bronze IV hearth beside two mudbrick walls during this year's excavation at Tell Abu en-Ni'aj

include ceramics, stone tools and grindstones, all of which can be compared with contemporary material from Tell Abu Al Ni'aj.

The third site examined this year, Umm Al Ba'ir, revealed stone architecture and exclusively Iron Age pottery, suggesting to the team leaders that this was probably a small farmstead or hamlet during the Iron Age. No Early Bronze Age evidence was found here.

Comparing and contrasting

The two relatively rare EBIV settlements of Tell Abu Al Ni'aj, in the valley plain, and Dhahret Umm Al Marar, on a nearby hilltop in the foothills, offer a valuable opportunity to compare and contrast the economies and material cultures of their inhabitants during that ancient period. Most of the cultural

remains identified to date are similar, Jones said, but some obvious differences in pottery colour, texture and form will be studied (and also compared with artefacts from the very few other excavated EBIV settlements).

The team will also compare data from Tell Abu Al Ni'aj with that from Tell Hayyat. Both sites revealed pottery that had a green tinge, probably reflecting overfiring of locally produced wares. An interesting picture is also already emerging of the changing livestock ratios over time between the Early and Middle Bronze Ages at the two sites. The high ratio of pig bones at EBIV Tell Abu Al Ni'aj, for example, strongly suggests the activities of a settled farming community, rather than the predominantly pastoral economy that would be expected from an EBIV village.

Analyses of this type will allow for a reconstruction of animal husbandry strategies for sheep, goat and cattle that aimed at herd security as well as at periodic adjustments to obtain the secondary products of wool, hair, milk and labour, Falconer said.

The material excavated this year will be analysed and published in the coming few years, after which excavations will be resumed.

Pyramids collapse in Suriname

By Paul Hughes
Reuters

PARAMARIBO, Surinam — When Johnny heard that a local businessman in this steamy South American capital was offering interest rates of 10 per cent a month, he thought it was too good to be true.

"I just hope I'll get some of my money back," said Johnny, who declined to give his full name.

Ever since the collapse of get-rich-quick savings schemes in Albania this year led to mass rioting, the dangers of pyramid banking have become well known.

But it was already too late for this former Dutch colony of 430,000 people. By then, thousands of surinamese had invested in similar schemes.

One in particular, Roep N.V., claimed the lion's share.

Johnny had already made a tidy sum from putting aside some of his savings with Roep over several years. He withdrew his money before the Albanian crisis hit world headlines but when he got ready to invest it to set up his own business, he found he was still short.

So, against the advice of his wife and friends, he decided to go back to Roep one more time.

"I knew I was taking a chance," he said.

One Friday in early May, he invested his entire life savings of about \$35,000. By Monday morning Roepsingh Ramtahalsingh, the owner of Roep N.V., had announced that he could not continue paying interest because of the lack of new depositors.

A month later, he said he would not be able to pay back his investors' capital either.

Small country, big dreams

About the size of the U.S. state of Georgia, Surinam is a sparsely populated country of Amazon jungle and rivers. The capital Paramaribo on the western bank of the Surinam River boasts just 170,000 inhabitants.

The Dutch inherited Surinam from Britain under the 1667 treaty of Breda in exchange for its Nieuw Amsterdam territory. Nieuw Amsterdam later became better known as New York.

Vast mineral and forestry resources earned it 17th place ranking in a world bank list of the world's wealthiest countries. But most Surinamese are not wealthy. The average wage is about \$100 per month.

A variety of saving schemes, known locally as near banking, began to appear in the early 1990s. Pyramid schemes, which rely upon an ever-increasing number of new investors to pay off old depositors, were quick to flourish.

Surinam was just emerging from a bloody civil war when some 15,000 people sought exile in neighbouring French Guiana as a band of rebels from the Bush negro population of the interior challenged the military government of Desi Bouterse. Democracy was restored in 1991, but the economy was in tatters with a plummeting local currency and runaway inflation.

"We had years of 300 per cent inflation so it wasn't tough for these schemes to offer 120 per cent interest," a local businessman said. But a disciplined economic programme tamed inflation from 587 per cent in 1994 to 37 per cent in 1995 and under one per cent last

year. "Overnight, the pyramid schemes went from being a hedge against inflation to making real money. That's when it got really interesting," the businessman said.

Commercial banks, offering far more conservative interest rates of about 20 per cent per year, could not compete.

No point in saving in banks

"When people can get 10 per cent per month they're not going to bring their money to us," one local banker said.

The pyramid schemes boomed. Bankers estimate that Roep and the other main scheme run by Johwin NV held deposits of about \$100 million in early May, or roughly the equivalent of the entire credit portfolio of Surinam's six commercial banks.

In early May, Mr. Ramtahalsingh, the owner of Roep N.V. and widely known just as Roep himself, said he had paid out \$10.3 million in interest alone in the first three months of 1997.

Even as their savings grew, most people remained ignorant of how Roep and Johwin were able to pay such exorbitant interest. Roep told inquirers it was a secret and compared the investors' savings to a cow. The cow's milk was the interest.

"If you asked people with their money with Roep how he was doing it they would say 'I don't know and I don't want to know,'" the businessman said.

Rates of return were so high that many took out bank loans or mortgaged their houses to invest with Roep, he said. "People took out bank loans at 45 per cent and got 120 per

cent and thought they were real smart."

The massive sums the pyramid bankers paid out every month fuelled a consumer boom. New four-wheel drive vehicles appeared on the potholed streets of the capital. Houses were extended and modernised and many people took vacations abroad.

Things turned sour

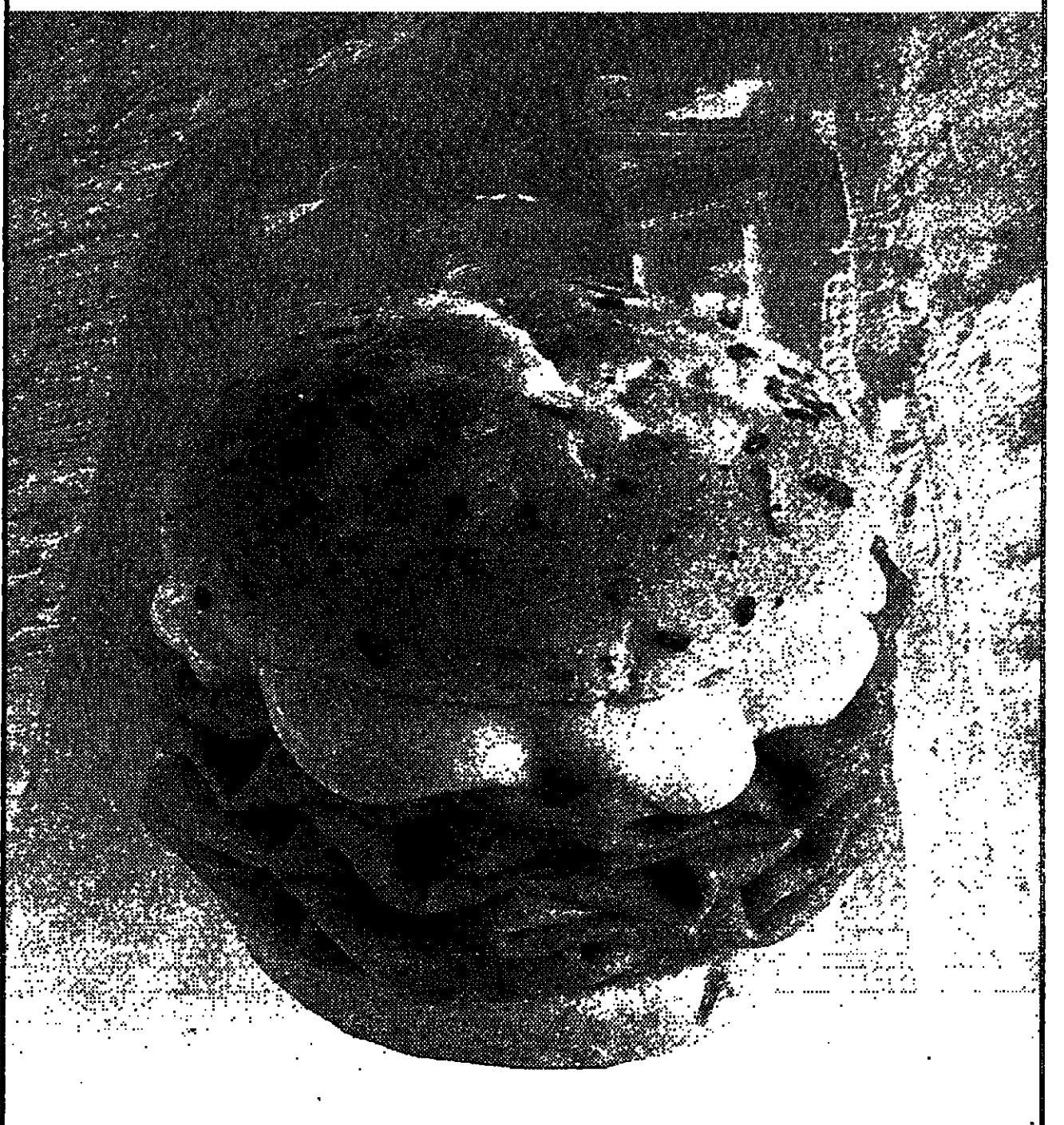
Things started to turn sour in April when events in Albania forced Surinamese to question the safety of their savings. Then Surinam's largest bank, de Surinaamsche Bank, closed Roep's accounts. The negative publicity forced Roep to announce he could not keep paying interest.

Mr. Ramtahalsingh promised to start paying investors back in June. But on June 4 he admitted he would need one to three years to liquidate his assets and meet his debts. Many investors are now looking to the government, which analysts say was slow to act and even negligent in the face of growing evidence of imminent crisis.

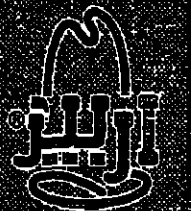
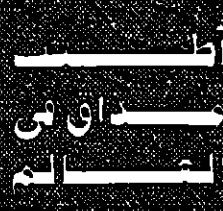
He is the half-brother of Finance Minister Motilal Mungra but officials deny any government involvement with the pyramid bankers. "The government has nothing to do with the schemes or with those who run them," National Assembly speaker Indradevi Djwalapersad told Reuters.

She said the government was watching Mr. Ramtahalsingh closely to make sure he did not skip the country. So are his customers. An angry mob of about 500 gathered outside his offices on June 5. "If I don't get my money back within three weeks, I'll blow up the place," said one man in his 30s.


Opening Today at Swaifieh



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Answer here: 

Jumble
 Answer

SCARY MONOR NOICE
 What the "FOUR" sleeper gave
 salesman - "CHOICE WORDS"

Jordan National Bank launches fund offering capital protection, minimum 5% return

By Samir Ghawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Building on the decision of the Central Bank which last month liberalised foreign exchange dealings, the Jordan National Bank (JNB) has pioneered a Capital Guaranteed Investment Fund, the first of a series of many diversified investments that JNB plans to launch in the Kingdom.

According to Jabra Ghandour, JNB assistant general manager, the approach offers capital protection and minimum return linked to the performance of bond, equity and currency markets.

"The capital protection component comes to protect the invested capital, and the capital surplus component is used to take market exposure and create additional profit potential," Mr. Ghandour said.

He explained that the minimum amount required is \$100,000 and that a minimum return of five per cent is assured although the target return will be seven per cent per annum. "Any return beyond the minimum return will be equally shared between the bank and the client," Mr. Ghandour pointed out.

"The seven per cent target return represents 0.75 per cent above the interest rate on 3-year U.S. treasury bills," the JNB official indicated.

The fund, managed and administered by the Union of Bank of Switzerland and JNB — Limassol/Cyprus, covers a period of three years but is tradable through monthly valuation and settlement.

The JNB official highlighted the benefit of the investment in the fund by pointing out that it can be used as security or collateral for any credit advances or loans from the bank in addition to the high return.

He noted that in 1996 the composite performance reached 7.10 per cent and that during the

first three months of this year the return stood at 1.46 per cent.

Mr. Ghandour stressed that the initial capital is 100 per cent protected and that a five per cent minimum return is assured.

"The active management of the capital surplus amount involves asset and market exposures through futures and options strategy and does not affect the capital protection component in any case," he emphasised.

"The use of derivative instruments is to gain exposure, limit risk and generate the additional return over the respective swap rate," he said.

Mr. Ghandour told the Jordan Times that JNB is now striving to restructure its profitability profile by increasing the ratio of earnings commission and fees to total income against the sale traditional dependence on interest differential as the bread and butter of net operating profit.

"To enhance commission-based return and effectively bridge the gap between sources and uses of funds, JNB will introduce new products such as fixed income security (callable, corporate, convertible bonds...), syndicated loans, portfolio management and participation in international refinancing projects," he said.

He added: "Our aim is to enhance our profitability ratios, namely return on earnings and return on assets more than mere concentration on increasing total assets, thus avoiding non-productive assets."

"To reach our target, the bank will continue to be innovative in offering contemporary products to better serve the changing needs of our customers," Mr. Ghandour concluded.

Government officials, World Bank team discuss \$50 million health restructuring project

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times



A general view of the Higher Health Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Majali (Petra photo)

AMMAN — A team from the World Bank held extensive talks with officials from the Ministry of Health on a \$50 million restructuring project of the health sector in the Kingdom, a World Bank official said Tuesday.

"The project would focus on improving the efficiency and the quality of health services in the public sector and in coordinating public sector investments with those from the private sector in addition to upgrading the efficiency and quality of the pharmaceutical sector," said George Schieber, health sector chief at the World Bank.

"It (the project) will improve public health services. Jordan will be able to get better value for the money it spends and Jordanian citizens would be getting better quality of healthcare and have it more accessible to them," Mr. Schieber said following a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

"You have to make some upfront investments before you could achieve sizeable savings," he said after attending the meeting of the Higher Health Council, chaired by Dr. Majali.

"If we put management information systems in the hospitals and introduce new ways of paying hospitals, such as those used in a lot of western European countries, that would teach people how to use these systems... to react to the incentives that are built into them," he added.

"We provided a briefing for his excellency the Prime Minister and several other ministers as well as some officials from the health sector and the private sector on the results of the study that has been done jointly by the government of Jordan and the World Bank," the bank official said.

He told reporters that he discussed the possible World Bank project to also deal with some other problems such as the tremendously high cost in Jordan.

Mr. Schieber indicated that the projects include improving efficiency in the public sector "as the system in Jordan does

not perform quiet well from the point of view of health outcomes and health services."

Asked when the government would implement the project, the official said it is up to the Jordanian government to decide when it should be enforced.

"We are trying to work out the details of the World Bank project. Now I think it depends on the government if it is satisfied with what we have worked together. The World Bank management should approve it as well. Certainly it could be done within the next six months to nine months," he said.

Asked about the cost of this project Mr. Schieber said the bank is "working on those numbers. We are reluctant to decide on anything... Probably it will be in the range of, perhaps, \$40 to \$50 million investment in the health sector."

"This is an issue of tremendous interest to the population and the government. After all, eight per cent of the economy is being devoted to this area and it affects the well-being of all Jordanian people," he added.

He denied that this project was part of privatisation process in the Kingdom.

"I think what we are talking about is more coordinating the public and private sectors in a way that the government could make better use of the combined resources in health," he said.

Health Minister Ashraf Kurdi told reporters that the objective of this project is to improve the medical performance and the medical expertise of the staff through extensive training inside and outside Jordan.

Dr. Kurdi added that the Kingdom would be divided into three areas to facilitate health services for citizens.

He emphasised that the talks with the World Bank would continue until Thursday adding that Jordan has reached an agreement with the bank to increase the loan to the health sector from \$40 to \$50 million.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 15/07/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED '000	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW										
284.500	214.500	ARAB BANK	12.9	1.43	20	1300	390860	278.00	279.50	1.50	
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	58	35135	73265	2.06	2.29	0.23	
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	E	0.00	3	252	782	3.21	3.11	-0.10	
1.210	0.880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	5	2038	1874	92	92	-	
2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.1	7.76	8	2800	6120	2.20	2.18	-0.02	
5.200	4.350	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.95	18	51099	250406	4.40	4.51	0.11	
1.050	0.780	JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	9.21	10	12436	9451	18	18	-	
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.4	3.17	11	2284	8619	2.79	2.78	-0.01	
1.800	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	2	250	294	1.19	1.15	-0.04	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 208.50	CHG: +0.45	135	107694	741671					
3.000	2.700	JORDAN INSURANCE	11.8	5.45	4	101350	283790	2.75	2.75	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 113.77	CHG: 0.00	4	101350	283790					
1.820	1.500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	16	13448	23137	1.63	1.66	0.03	
2.780	2.340	HIGH MINERALS	11.5	5.82	2	19240	51563	2.55	2.58	0.03	
6.100	4.100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	15.4	4.00	2	1500	7500	5.00	5.00	-	
1.550	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	0	0.00	65	39971	57049	1.45	1.45	-	
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.7	0.00	5	5075	14816	2.90	2.90	-	
1.220	0.930	ZAKRA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	2000	1860	0.93	0.93	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 107.76	CHG: +0.46	92	81234	154926					
4.450	3.070	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.3	2.72	42	49989	202423	4.05	4.05	-	
10.250	8.850	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.03	15	1302	12820	9.84	9.84	-	
3.280	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	0	0.00	2	80	132	1.67	1.65	-0.02	
4.100	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	10.9	5.06	15	5151	20761	3.91	3.95	0.04	
7.250	5.700	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	6.5	3.19	1	200	1254	6.60	6.27	-0.33	
1.820	1.310	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	16.5	6.02	2	446	580	1.34	1.33	-0.01	
10.250	5.250	ARAB CEM. DTARGON	16.1	5.70	1	100	526	5.54	5.26	-0.28	
5.650	4.250	DAR ALAMAR DV. INV.	12.7	4.81	4	832	4260	5.12	5.20	0.08	
3.850	2.400	ARAB ALUM.	5.7	10.20	2	278	680	2.42	2.45	0.03	
0.960	0.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	11	14750	6755	0.45	0.46	0.01	
1.310	1.000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	30.9	0.00	1	1000	1010	1.01	1.01	-	
0.770	0.510	NATIONAL INDS.	0	0.00	2	950	494	0.52	0.52	-	
1.330	0.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	0	0.00	10	2850	1504	0.52	0.53	0.01	
0.950	0.540	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	0	0.00	1	250	135	0.54	0.54	-	
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	6	1550	2086	1.32	1.34	0.02	
1.430	0.820	RAMTHOR TRUST	75.9	0.00	2	1000	780	0.82	0.78	-0.04	
2.020	1.110	UNIV. MODN. INDS.	P	2.23	42	65800	73557	1.11	1.12	0.01	
1.520	1.000	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	14.3	9.43	36	21007	22046	1.01	1.06	0.05	
1.090	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	15	7147	5922	0.82	0.83	0.01	
2.090	1.420	EL. & TEL. READY WARE	50.3	0.00	8	2450	3223	1.46	1.43	-0.03	
1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	26	52900	60593	1.12	1.15	0.03	
1.260	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	39.6	0.00	3	196	169	0.86	0.87	0.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 126.79	CHG: +0.06	247	230028	421209					
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 164.16	CHG: +0.29	478	520306	1601595					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 15/07/1997											
0.670	0.410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	4	2900	1218	0.42	0.42	-	
1.550	1.070	SARA FOR INVESTMENT	75.4	0.00	2	750	833	1.15	1.15	-	
0.950	0.560	JOR. FIB. INV. CO.	0	0.00	42	82119	44821	0.56	0.56	-	
0.840	0.660	UNION INV. 50%	0	0.00	27	106800	20292	0.68	0.69	0.01	
0.670	0.370	ARAB FIB. INVEST.	0	0.00	10	6200	2706	0.44	0.44	-	
0.950	0.720	AL-SHARQ INV. 75%	0	0.00	1	5000	2500	0.75	0.75	-	
0.950	0.610	AL-DAMLIYAN 75%	59.5	0.00	2	5050	1869	0.62	0.62	-	
0.480	0.200	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JENCO	0	0.00	4	3000	780	0.27	0.27	-	
0.750	0.400	NATL. WULF. ENG. MARFIC	0	0.00	17	8600	4154	0.50	0.50	-	
0.850	0.710	JORDAN STEEL	32.6	6.94	12	6324	4573	0.73	0.72	-0.01	
1.220	0.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	0	0.00	2	650	442	0.93	0.93	-	
0.680	0.350	RAZI PHARM. 85%	0	0.00	2	350	140	0.55	0.55	-	
0.600	0.320	INDOS. ENG.	20.9	0.00	7	2150	706	0.33	0.34	0.01	
0.520	0.280	1. TEXTILE MANUF.	0	0.00	2	900	225	0.26	0.25	-0.01	
0.820	0.590	NATL. POULTRY	8	0.00	1	750	443	0.60	0.59	-0.01	
0.870	0.610	WID. EAST COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	19	60050	36130	0.61	0.62	0.01	
GRAND TOTAL				184	291397	121932					

* New 12 months low
* Listed during the past 12 months
* P/E ratio is 100 or more
* Negative P/E
* Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold and Mike Angleton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENVIL
ACOME
BLIGET
VERDIF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: SCARY. HONOR. NOVICE. POWDER. Answer: What the difficult shopper gave the salesman - "CHOICE" WORDS

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Matari finishes fourth in 10,000 metres but may be disqualified

By Aileen Bannayan
and JSYIF press committee

JORDAN added three more medals to its tally when Ayed Khawaldeh won three bronze medals in the weightlifting competition on the 3rd day of the 8th Pan-Arab Games currently underway in Beirut.

Khawaldeh became the first Jordanian to win three medals in the history of the Games and also broke two Jordanian records in the jerk and overall competitions.

Khawaldeh competed in the 54-kilogramme category and lifted 95 kilograms in the snatch event while Egypt's Ali Hameed took the gold by lifting 105 kilograms and Algeria's Nafe'h Ali took the silver.

Khawaldeh then broke his own record of 112.5 kilograms and set a new Jordanian record when he lifted 120 kilograms in the jerk event but was injured when he attempted 125 kilograms. Egypt's Hameed lifted 135 kilograms and Lebanon took the silver.

Khawaldeh also set an overall Jordanian record of 215 kilograms.

Amal Al Matari who won the bronze in the women's marathon on the opening day came in fourth in the 10,000 metres but organisers might disqualify her after judges ruled that she had not completed her last lap.

Jordanian officials protested the ruling and the technical committee will look into the issue Wednesday.

In other athletics results, Jordan's Ala' Abdul Hadi came in fifth in the high jump with 1.55 metres. Teammate Mohammad Abdul Baqi

also finished fifth in the triple jump with a jump of 14.57 metres.

In the 200 metres semifinals, Shadi Qa'our and Mohammad Shaman were eliminated when they finished fourth, and in the 1,500 metres Abdul Ilah Al Ayed came in fifth.

In Wednesday's scheduled competitions Amer Al Natour, who a bronze in fencing Monday, will compete in fencing's epee event in which the 13 competitors will be divided into two groups during the preliminaries. Quarter-final matches will be held Wednesday afternoon.

Natour told reporters he is hopeful of his chances of getting a gold medal.

Khawaldeh's three bronze medals brought the total of Jordan's medals to seven. Nada Kwar won Jordan's only gold medal in the discus and added a silver medal in the shot put. Amal Matari won a bronze in the women's marathon and Amer Natour added a bronze medal in fencing.

Meanwhile, the Kingdom's soccer delegation received a message from Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, the president of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), urging them to strive for an advanced standing in the competition.

The message was delivered by JSF Secretary Hisham Asfour.

Coach Mohammad Awad said he was hopeful of gaining medal as Jordan had tied Lebanon 1-1 and Libya and Oman were unimpressive in their 2-2 draw.

Jordan will meet Libya Thursday in their second match and a win will be vital since all teams in the group have not yet scored victories and are tied in

overall points.

Over 3,000 athletes converged on Beirut for the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

With Iraqi athletes barred from competition because of a boycott threat by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, 19 countries are taking part in the Beirut Games with only Somalia and the Comoros missing the event.

Officials were happy with the 1-1 soccer draw with Lebanon and hoped the team would continue to do well in their upcoming match against Libya Thursday.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes will be competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and will be competing in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

Drug testing was introduced for the first time since the Arab Games were launched in 1953, in line with international rules. All gold medalists are being tested for performance-enhancing drugs, as is one other competitor selected in a draw in each event.

Ala' Abdul Hadi (triple jump)
Fakhruldin Fu'ad (high jump)
Mohammad Shaman 200 metres final
Aysar & Mohammad Hiyari

Amer Natour

Schedule of events of Jordanian competitors at the 8th Pan-Arab Games for Wednesday July 16, 1997

• Basketball: Jordan-Saudi Arabia (men's match)

• Boxing Preliminary round

• Athletics

• Shooting

• Fencing

• Weightlifting:

UAE paper slams Iraq's exclusion from Arab Games

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iraq's exclusion from the Arab Games in Beirut is a "disgrace" for the Arab World, a semi-official daily in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Tuesday.

"What happened to Iraq is a real disgrace. Sport is a means to express the spirit of Arab chivalry and nobody has the right to bring politics into it," protested Al Itihad.

"When the young Iraqis were stopped" at the Lebanese-Syrian border, "all they carried were their sports outfits and a desire to join up with their (Arab) brothers in sports," it said. Al-Itihad pointed out that even the

United States, arch-foe of Iraq under President Saddam Hussein, allowed Iraqi athletes to compete in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Lebanon, under pressure from financial backers Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, barred Iraq from the Arab Games which opened on Saturday.

The Iraqi team staged a two-day protest at the Syrian border with Lebanon.

Iraq has been ostracised since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia made a donation Monday of \$2.66 million to the Arab Sports

Federation, which is currently staging the Arab Games in Lebanon.

The donation follows Lebanon's refusal, under pressure from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to allow a squad of 95 Iraqi athletes to take part in the Games, sparking allegations from Baghdad, that Beirut had sold itself to the Gulf monarchies.

The federation's president, Saudi Prince Faisal Bin Fahd, quoted by the official Saudi news agency, said the gift would enable the federation to pay off its debts and cover its budget for the next two years.

Race results suspended in controversy

BEIRUT (AP) —

Authorities at the 8th Pan-Arab Games have suspended the results of 800-meters for men and women following complaints that some athletes were jostled by others, officials said Tuesday.

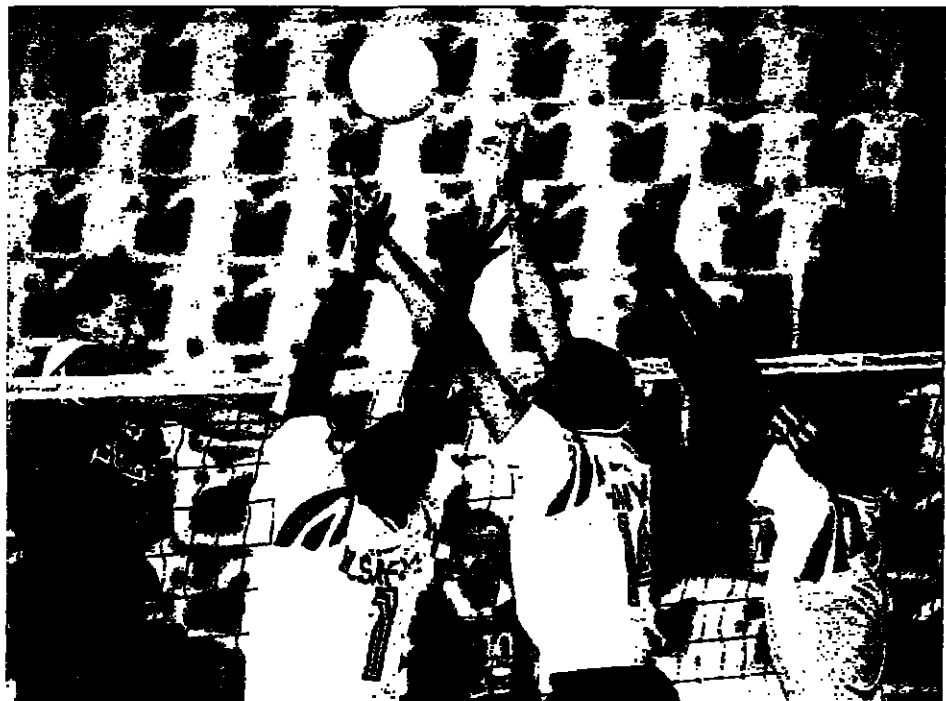
The races held Monday were won by Algeria, and the victories had put it on top of the medal table with six golds.

With the results withdrawn, Qatar is now on top with five golds. Morocco follows with four golds and six silvers while Algeria has slipped to the third position with four golds and two silvers.

A spokesman said an athletics technical commission will meet to decide whether the races should be repeated or if the old results can stand.

It was not known which countries formally complained, but Algerian winner Nouriah Binaida herself told reporters after the race that Moroccan competitors, who came second and third, jostled and pushed her.

"I don't want to win if they have to do this," she had said.



Egyptian volleyball players try to stop a smash by an Algerian player in Jounieh, during their Pan-Arab Games' match. Egypt won 3-1 (AFP photo)

Also late Monday, Egypt won the men's fencing, taking the first gold medal outside the track-and-field events.

Mohammed Fouad defeated Kuwaiti Mubashir

Shahrayan 15-9 to give Egypt its third gold. Nine fencers from five Arab nations spent the day contesting the foil category of the sport at suburban Mont La Salle east of Beirut.

Fares Abdul Razzak of Kuwait and Amer Natour of Jordan shared the bronze.

In soccer matches, Oman tied with Libya 2-2 while Syria defeated the United Arab Emirates 3-1.

Jordan to host 9th Pan-Arab Games in 2001

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN HAS received approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 2001 it was announced in Beirut Tuesday following the conclusion of the meetings of the Arab Sports Federation (ASF) headed by Prince Faisal Bin Fahd.

The head of the Kingdom's delegation to the Games said Kuwait was chosen as a substitute in case Jordan withdrew their bid.

Jordanian sports officials have underlined their support for organising and taking part in the Pan-Arab Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

But the Games, designed to emphasise Arab brotherhood, were clouded by Lebanon's refusal to grant the Iraqi team entry visas for fear of angering Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 26 bronze). The Kingdom's first and only gold medal in a team sport came in Morocco in 1985 when Jordan won the basketball event after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final.

Jordan finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

During the meetings, Jordan's Minister of Youth and Sports was named to the ASF Executive Board.

Othman Sa'ad, ASF secretary-general said a committee from the ASF would visit the Kingdom soon for talks with Jordanian officials.

Medals table after end of 2nd day			
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Algeria	6	2	2
Qatar	5	1	1
Morocco	4	1	1
Egypt	3	1	1
Syria	2	1	1
Jordan	1	1	1
Tunisia	1	1	1
Kuwait	1	1	1
Saudi Arabia	1	1	1
Lebanon	1	1	1

Kingdom's women's basketball team loses to Egypt, men beat Libya

Kawar to receive JD 800 for two medals

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

EGYPT BEAT Jordan 79-46 in the opening match of the women's basketball event at the Pan-Arab Games after the Kingdom's team managed to keep a tight score in the first half which Egypt won 36-29.

It was a big, yet expected win for Egypt who are more experienced than the their Jordanian counterparts and will be vying for the title against the other two top teams, Lebanon and Tunisia as well as Syria in the five team event.

Jumana Salti, who was chosen as one of the Asian Championships' five top players in 1995 is leading the women's basketball team who were unimpressive when they lost three of their friendly matches against Syria last month.

They however, were given the go-ahead to take part in the Games by the minister of youth and sports who prompted the Jordan Olympic Committee to include them to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped and took part in the Asian Championships.

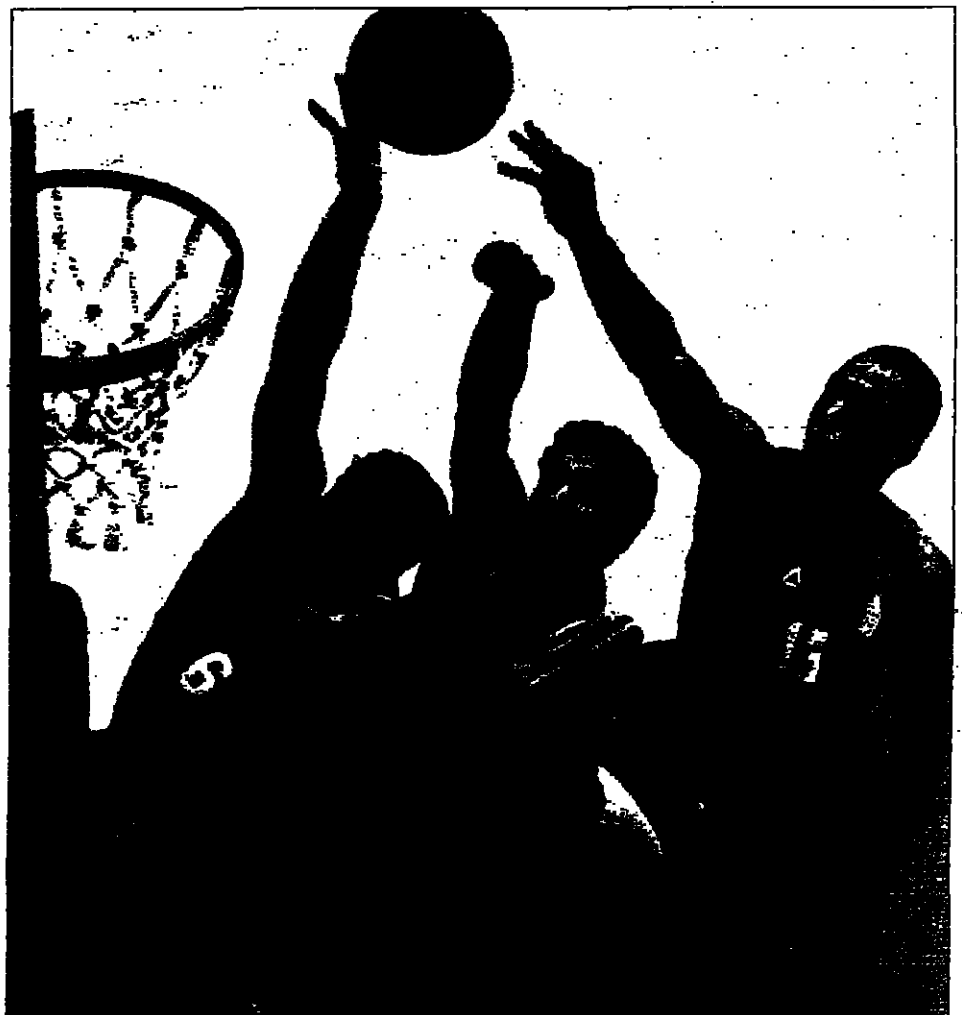
The Kingdom's men's teams opened their matches with a 95-66 win over Libya when the men's basketball competition got underway at the Arab Games late Monday night. Saudi Arabia overcame Morocco 67-54 as hosts Lebanon beat Qatar 73-51 at Antranig Stadium.

Although the win was important for Jordan before facing Saudi Arabia Wednesday, the team lost a key member when Zeid Alkhas was injured and was ruled out for two matches.

Alkhas who is studying in the U.S. has just returned from Korea after an impressive performance in the Asian All-Star game to which he was chosen during the 1995 Asian Championships. Team officials said he might be able to play in a couple of days after hospital treatment.

Jordan is playing in Group 1 with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Morocco. Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. The top two teams in each group will contest the semifinal round starting July 23.

After Jordan led 24-10, the Kingdom's coach enlisted the efforts of the bench players allowing the Libyans to cut the lead and



Moroccan Kamal Shantaf (L) shoots at the basket assisted by his colleague Mohamed Hamoush (R) as Saudi Ali al-Mozazi center (C) attempts to block him during second half action of basketball qualification of the Pan Arab Games (Reuters photo)

draw 30-30 before Jordan won the first half 46-34.

Naser Alawneh had 33 points, while the rest of his teammates were not so successful as Jan Sahlieh had 11, Mahmoud Sh'aban 8, Zeid Alkhas and Husam Lutfi 7, Yousef Abu Bakr 6, Naser Bassam Ma'an Odeh and Marwan Saeedi 5, Fadi Saqqa and Ayman Du'eis 4.

If Jordan beats Saudi Arabia in their upcoming match they will have a clear shot at one of the medals although the draw has minimised the chances since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should have been divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

While Jordan objected to the two group draw, Lebanese officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw it would not be accepted now. Jordan had won the first gold medal in team sports when the basketball team clinched the gold medal in the 1985 Games in Morocco. They finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

While team members are optimistic about their chances of an advanced standing and winning a medal for Jordan, tough competition lies ahead especially in the light that a young lineup is representing the Kingdom with big names like Hilal Barakat, Yousef Zaghloul, Naser Bushnaq and Marwan Ma'touq missing from the lineup.

Kawar prepares for Athens championship

Nada Kawar, who has already clinched the discus gold and shot put silver medals will be receiving JD 800 according to the winners' prizes set by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Amal Mutari and Amer Natour will get JD200 each. As the women's basketball got underway Tuesday, it was reported from Beirut that Kawar, an avid player, will not be joining the basketball team as earlier reported.

Kawar who resides in the U.S. and is preparing to take part in the Athletics World Championship in Athens next month was awaiting word from her U.S. coach to join the basketball team. However, her coaches opted for her not to play in order to avoid any possible injury prior to her competition next month.

Basketball is the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Jordan's basketball schedule	
Wed. 16/7	Jordan-Saudi Arabia (men)
Thurs. 17/7	Syria-Jordan (women)
Fri. 18/7	Jordan-Morocco (men)
Sat. 19/7	Jordan-Tunisia (women)
Sun. 20/7	Lebanon-Jordan (women)
Wed. 23/7	Jordan-Syria (men)
Thurs. 24/7	5th & 6th places (men)
Fri. 25/7	7th & 8th places
Sat. 26/7	semifinal round
	3rd & 4th places
	final match

TODAY AT

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PHILADELPHIA "1"

Jim Carrey ... in

LIAR LIAR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA

TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "2"

Keanu Reeves ... in

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA

TEL:699238

PLAZA

Tom Cruise...in
JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30

Adel Imam...in
BAKHIT AND ADEELAH (PART 2)
(Aljardal wal kanaka)

Shows: 8:30 - 10:30

CINEMA

TEL:671420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt...in
DEVIL'S OWN

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2"

Michael Jordan...in

SPACEJAM

Shows: 3:30, 6:00

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The ball pops free from the glove of Texas Rangers catcher Ivan Rodriguez (L) as Anaheim Angels Tim Salmon collides to score on teammates Jim Leyritz' single in the second inning in Anaheim, California (Reuters photo)

Karros homer in 10th helps surging Dodgers beat Rockies

DENVER (R) — Eric Karros belted a two-run homer in the top of the 10th inning and Wilton Guerrero added an RBI single to help the Los Angeles Dodgers to their 10th win in 11 games, 14-12 over the Colorado Rockies Monday.

"It was a fastball, I swung at everything tonight," Karros said. "I was just a bad hitter. I don't hit (starter Darren) Holmes well at all. I salvaged a potential 0-for-6 with four strikeouts and a loss."

"It was an entertaining game, more entertaining if you're on the winning side. You can get 20 hits here and lose."

The Dodgers pulled within three games of first-place San Francisco in the N.L. West. Colorado has lost three in a row and 10 of its last 11 games.

Scott Radinsky (4-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the victory. In the 10th, Todd Worrell allowed a leadoff homer to Jeff Reed, his second of the game, before notching his 22nd save. Steve Reed (1-4) took the loss.

Brett Butler, Mike Piazza and Todd Zeile had four hits apiece for Los Angeles, which banged out 22, a season high. Zeile homered twice and Piazza hit a three-run shot in the first. Andres Galarraga hit a two-run homer for Colorado.

Rockies right fielder Larry Walker went 4-for-6 with two RBIs, raising his Major League-leading average to .411.

In San Diego, Tony Gwynn, walker's rival for the batting title, continued his torrid hitting as the Padres beat the San Francisco Giants 5-3.

Gwynn, who went 3-for-4 with a single, double and triple, raised his average to .402 and extended his hitting streak to 19 games. Over that span he is hitting .428 (36-for-84). Gwynn also added three RBI and has 81 on the season for the Padres, who have won four of their last five.

Danny Jackson (2-7) allowed just two runs and five hits over six innings and won for the first time as a Padre, allowing two walks and striking out two. He snapped a five-game losing streak since being acquired just over a month ago. Doug Creek (1-1) took the loss.

In Atlanta, Tim Lincecum belted a Grand Slam in his first game of the season and Ryan Klesko also hit a Grand Slam and got five RBIs as the Braves rallied from a six-run deficit for a 10-6 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Atlanta — which blew a 6-0 lead to the Mets the night before — took the lead for good in the sixth against reliever Billy Brewer (0-2) on Klesko's four-run blast.

Kevin Millwood (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings to win his Major League debut. Mark Wohlers came on in the ninth with the bases loaded and struck out both batters he faced for his 22nd save.

In Pittsburgh, Jason

Kendall's RBI double with one out in the bottom of the eighth capped a two-run rally as the Pirates defeated the New York Mets 5-4.

Ricardo Rincon (4-4) escaped an eighth-inning jam and Rich Loiselle added a scoreless ninth for his 12th save. The win was just the second for the Pirates in eight meetings with New York. Set-up man Greg McMichael (6-7) took the loss.

Todd Pratt and butch husky hit solo homers for the Mets, who lost for only the second time in eight games.

In Chicago, Ricky Gutierrez' single with one out in the top of the 15th scored Bill Spiers, who had tripled, with the go-ahead run as the Houston Astros outlasted the Cubs 9-7.

The game lasted 5 hours, 19 minutes, setting a new record for the longest night game at Wrigley Field. The Cubs and Pirates endured a 4-hour, 35-minute game in July of 1991.

Billy Wagner (6-3) allowed three hits over three scoreless innings to earn the victory, and Russ Springer pitched a scoreless

15th for his first National League save.

Reliever Ramon Tatis (0-1) took the loss.

Brad Ausmus went 2-for-5 with five RBIs, including his first career Grand Slam for the Astros.

In Cincinnati, Kent Mercker got his sixth win in his last seven decisions and Eddie Taubensee delivered a key pinch double as the Reds hung another loss on Fernando Valenzuela and defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2.

Mercker (7-6) allowed a pair of runs over 5 2/3 innings. He allowed seven hits, walking two and striking out six.

In Florida, Jim Eisenreich's run-scoring single in the bottom of the 12th scored Edgar Renteria with the winning run as the Marlins rallied from a four-run deficit to defeat the Montreal Expos 5-4.

Florida won for the 15th time this season in its final at-bat and improved to 6-3 in extra-inning games. The Expos fell to 1-5 in such contests. Henry Rodriguez homered for Montreal and Bobby Bonilla hit one out for Florida.

American League

Boston	18	Detroit	4
Baltimore	9	Toronto	5
Cleveland	3	NY Yankees	2 (In 10)
Kansas City	2	Milwaukee	1 (In 14)
Minnesota	5	White Sox	3
Anaheim	6	Texas	5
Seattle	6	Oakland	2

National League

Florida	5	Montreal	4 (In 12)
Cincinnati	4	St. Louis	2
Pittsburgh	5	NY Mets	4
Atlanta	10	Philadelphia	6
Houston	9	Chicago Cubs	7 (In 15)
Los Angeles	14	Colorado	12 (In 10)
San Diego	5	San Francisco	3

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 20 7	What do you bid now?
♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠ 4 3 2 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?	Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:	♠ K 6 5 CA 10 7 5 4 QT 6 A 10 5 2
Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST Pass Pass 10 1A	What do you bid now?
♠ 9 4 3 2 ♠ 10 9 8 4 A A K Q 6 5 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?	Q. 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:	♠ K 6 5 CA 10 7 5 4 QT 6 A 10 5 2
Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST Pass Pass 10 1A	What do you bid now?
♠ A 10 7 ♠ A J 10 6 5 K J 7 2 4 5	Q. 4 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:	♠ K 6 5 4 3 2 ♠ 10 9 8 4 A A K Q 6 5

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Ashe stadium dedication set August 25

NEW YORK (AFP) — Arthur Ashe stadium, the new centre court at the U.S. Open tennis championships, will be dedicated in a ceremony after the first night match here on August 25.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) said Monday that the event will include an on-court tribute to past U.S. Open champions, a dedication of the 23,000-seat stadium and a performance by singer Whitney Houston.

Don Budge, John McEnroe, Chris Evert and Billie Jean King are among those expected to appear at the ceremony.

Ashe, who died of transfusion-related AIDS in 1993, became the first black man to win a Grand Slam title when he took the 1968 U.S. Open. He won 33 career titles, including the 1970 Australian Open and 1975 Wimbledon crowns.

"Arthur Ashe was the greatest ambassador our sport has known," USTA President Harry Marmion. "The dedication is the most appropriate way I can think of to honour Arthur's memory."

The stadium was named for Ashe last February, but only after a USTA plan to sell naming rights was protested by top players.

Morceli planning attack on mile world record

NICE (R) — Algerian Noureddine Morceli returns to the scene of one of his greatest triumphs on Wednesday, hoping to kick-start his so-far lacklustre season by breaking his own world mile record.

The 27-year-old Olympic 1500 metres champion, ranked number one in the world over the mile and 1,500 metres since 1990, has had a poor season by his own high standards.

But he heads for the Nikia Grand Prix aiming to better the world mile record of three minutes 44.39 seconds, which he set nearly four years ago.

It was at this meeting two years ago that Morceli ran a memorable 3:27.37 seconds to set the current world 1,500 metres record — the biggest world record improvement over the distance for 28 years.

But after winning the Olympic title last year he has made little impact this season.

On May 31 he dropped out of his much-hyped two-mile race at Hengelo against Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie after seven laps.

His pre-race comments had hinted he would not be taking the race all that seriously despite the \$1 million purse for breaking eight minutes and since then the Algerian has shown little in the way of his usual breathtaking form.

He currently has only the 12th-fastest time of the year over 1,500 metres (3:33.98) and, although he has run the year's fastest 2,000 metres (4:54.67), has made no impact over the mile or 3,000.

With the world championships fast approaching in

Athens next month, his low-key approach may all be part of a deliberate plan.

But with \$50,000 on offer for a world record and running on a track he is known to favour, Morceli could well produce some more magic on Wednesday.

With the exception of Gebrselassie, the meeting features most of the world's outstanding middle-distance runners — but none of them are racing against each other.

Denmark's Wilson Kipketer, who equalled Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old world 800 metres record last week in Stockholm, runs over 1,000 metres, while Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco is in the 1,500 metres.

El Guerrouj's compatriot Salah Hissou, whose 10,000 metres world record was demolished by Gebrselassie in Oslo on July 4, lines up in the 3,000 metres.

While those races could provide some memorable moments on the track, there is also a high-class pole vault field featuring Olympic champion Jean Galfione of France, Ukrainian world record holder Sergei Bubka, South African Olkiet Brits, ranked second to Bubka on the all-time list, Russia's 1992 Olympic champion Maxim Tarasov and Tim Lobinger of Germany, who has cleared a year's best of 5.92 metres.

Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria, who pulled out of the Mediterranean games a month ago with a leg injury, resumes her preparations for the defence of her world 1,500 metres title with a run in the mile, while the evergreen Merlene Ottey of Jamaica runs in the 200 metres.

Sotomayor leads Cuban assault on Athens

SALAMANCA, Spain (AFP) — Javier Sotomayor and Norberto Tellez showed the way here at the athletics meet on Monday putting in impressive performances and laying down markers ahead of August's World Championships in Athens.

Sotomayor, who broke the world record here in 1993 which led to the stadium being named after him, and Tellez made up for the enforced absence of world indoor and outdoor long jump champion Ivan Pedroso, who said he did not want to risk making an ankle injury any worse.

The 29-year-old Sotomayor, the 1993 world champion, posted the second best jump for the year of 2.34 metres — to show that he was fully recovered after a series of injuries upset his early part of the season.

Tellez, who became the fastest ever qualifier for an Olympic 800 metres

final when he ran 1 minute 43.79 seconds last year, stormed past 36-year-old veteran Johnny Gray in the finishing straight to suggest that he should be challenging for a medal in Athens.

Slovakian 110 metres hurdler Igor Kovac won the 110 metres hurdles impressively — in what would have been a world record in the days of manual timing.

The 28-year-old Kovac, three times a world championship semi-finalist but only an Olympic quarter-finalist last year, eased home over veteran Americans Tony Dees, dual Olympic champion Roger Kingdom and Cuban Valle.

Kovac finished in a hand held time of 12.90, two hundredths inside Briton Colin Jackson's world record, but the electronic timer registered him at 13.18 seconds.

Briton Linford Christie, the former

Olympic and world 100 metres champion, won the 100 metres against a field made up of gutsy Spaniards and Cubans, sauntering home in a disappointing time of 10.12 seconds given that he had a favourable following wind.

The 1991 world champion Samuel Matete of Zambia easily won the men's 400m hurdles in a time of 49.08.

The 28-year-old Matete, likely to be one of the main rivals for American favourite Bryan Bronson in Athens, easily held off the challenge of another American, Eric Thomas.

Ugandan Davis Kamoga, the 1996 Olympic 400 metres bronze medalist, strolled home untroubled in a below par field in 45.11 seconds with the second man finishing over a second behind.

Struggling Chang begins work for U.S. Open

WASHINGTON (AFP) — World No. 2 Michael Chang, a first-match loser in four of his past six events, tries to revive his game and defend his title here at the ATP Washington Classic.

The top-seeded Asian-American begins play at the \$675,000 event Tuesday against Mexican qualifier Luis Herrera. Andre Agassi and Czech Petr Korda are Chang's top rivals in the first hardcourt tune-up for the U.S. Open.

Chang won here and in Los Angeles last year during a 22-3 streak that included a runner-up finish at the Open, losing the final to World No. 1 Pete Sampras.

"Last year's tournament was a great confidence booster for me," Chang said. "Obviously it's great when



Michael Chang

you do well in the tournaments leading up to the U.S. Open. That's where your confidence is built."

Chang began the year with confidence, winning at Memphis in February and

bridge won 7-6, 3-6, 6-2, 3-6, 8-6 on his way to the semi-finals.

"The depth of tennis today is great," Chang said. "You can't take anyone lightly. You might not have nine of the top 10 players (here) but the field is strong and in many ways dangerous."

Herrera proved his point by rallying to oust American Jim Grabb 1-6, 6-1, 7-5, in a first-round match here Monday.

Grabb, who won the first set in 22 minutes, hit aces on three of the first four points in the 11th game of the last set. But he lost eight of the next nine points to drop the match.

"It was a weird match," Herrera said. "He started fast and I was not in the match early. In the second set I started making a lot better returns. He was tired and I played better."

Herrera has taken two years to regain his form since being sidelined 18 months with an injured left shoulder.

"He is playing very well," Herrera said. "I know he is fast. We are both fast. I have nothing to lose. I just want to go out and have fun."

Agassi, seeded third, has been sidelined since April with a wrist injury that kept him out of Wimbledon and the French Open. The former World No. 1 is only 4-6 in ATP play this year and has slid to 30th in the rankings.

"This tournament means more to me than ever before," said Agassi, who won here in 1990, 1991 and 1995. He begins Wednesday with a second-round match against either American Doug Flach or Italy's Cristiano Caratti.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT OF THERMAL POWER PROJECT ON A BUILD - OWN - OPERATE BASIS NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SPONSORS

The Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources (MEMR), an organisation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, intends to have its next thermal Power Project, with a 400 kW, 132 kV switchyard and support facilities (the Project), implemented on a build - own - operate (BOO) basis. MEMR intends to select a sponsor (the sponsor) through international competitive bidding based on a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document, and negotiate the agreements under which the project will be implemented, so as to commence commercial operation of the first unit on or before July 1, 2001.

To assist MEMR in the implementation of this first private power project in Jordan, K & M Engineering and Consulting Corporation, USA, has been the advisor for sponsor pre-qualification and RFP preparation.

MEMR now seeks to pre-qualify interested firms and/or joint ventures who have international experience in implementing electric energy generation projects, and invites "Qualification Statements" from them.

The pre-qualification document which contains the required "Qualification Statements forms" and the evaluation criteria will be available on or about August 8, 1997, from:

1- K&M Engineering and Consulting Corporation
2001 L Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
Attn: Mr. Guy Knowle, Manager of Procurement Services
Tel: (202) 728-0390
Fax: (202) 872-9174
E-mail: gknowle@mailier.KMEC.com

2- Eng. Ahmad Bashir
Secretary General
Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources (MEMR)
P.O. Box 140027
Jabal Amman-7th Circle
Amman-Jordan
Tel: 962-6-829971
Fax: 962-6-821398

Potential Sponsors "Qualification Statements" shall be submitted on or before 14 hours Amman time on September 8, 1997, to MEMR at the above address.

Arafat calls on Europe to use 'economic card' against Israel

LONDON (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat called here Tuesday on the European Union to use its economic links with Israel to force the country to implement the peace accords it signed with the Palestinians.

"If you wave this economic card they will listen to you," he said at a press conference, adding that "70 per cent of Israeli trade is with Europe."

Warning of further unrest in the Middle East unless progress is made on the peace process, Mr. Arafat accused Israel of breaking the terms of the Oslo peace agreement.

"We are not asking for the moon. We are asking for what has been signed in the White House to be implemented accurately and honestly," he said, referring to the 1993 accord allowing for a five-year transition period of Palestinian autonomy before a final handover of occupied Palestinian territory.

"The situation is very delicate. I hope we can control it because the only alternative is confusion. This policy is increasing the fanatical groups on both sides. What will be the result — confusion in the whole area?"

Mr. Arafat, who met Monday with Prime Minister Tony Blair, was in London to lobby for further European help in reviving the peace process, stalled since April after Israel's decision to build a new

Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem.

He told journalists that Palestinians were furious and were asking him: "Is this the settlement which you signed? Is this peace?"

"There is an international need for peace in the Middle East — not just a Palestinian or an Israeli need for peace," he said.

Also Tuesday, Mr. Arafat accused Israel of aiming to "sabotage" a draft U.N. resolution which would hit it with economic sanctions as punishment for its settlement activity.

"I am sure that there is an intention (by) the Israelis and their allies to make sabotage for this resolution," Mr. Arafat told the American Cable News Channel CNN when asked about the possibility of U.S. pressure to water down the resolution.

"But I am not worried. I am sure that no one can hide the sun with his fingers," he said.

The United Nations General Assembly was due to vote later Tuesday on a draft resolution which would be one of the toughest ever against Israel, laying down economic sanctions against it for construction of Jewish settlements which have brought the peace process to a four-month halt.

The draft calls for U.N. members to halt any support by companies to construction in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip and to boycott goods manufactured in the settlements.

But under pressure from European nations, the Arab states which sponsored the resolution removed a clause which would temporarily exclude Israel from future General Assembly deliberations.

Western diplomats said some North European states could still vote against the draft if it is not further softened.

"Of course we are trying to nullify this resolution," Israeli government spokesman Moshe Fogel told AFP.

"The Palestinians are trying to bash us with politically biased resolutions and by doing this they are breaking (self-rule) agreements which forbid either side from turning unilaterally to outside bodies," said Mr. Fogel.

"Differences must be worked out in negotiations not by bashing each other with propaganda," he said.

Asked if he expected the final resolution to "still have teeth" after all the amendments, Mr. Arafat said, "I hope so."

"The most important thing (in the resolution) is how to push forward by all means (making the Israeli) government respect what has been signed," he said.

Mr. Arafat rejected accusations by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the Palestinians were responsible for the long halt in negotiations

between the two sides, pointing to widespread international condemnation of Israeli settlement moves.

"Fine, say we are wrong. But is Jordan also wrong? Is Egypt also wrong? Is (U.S. President Bill) Clinton wrong? Is the European Union?" he said.

The Palestinians walked out of talks in mid-March when Israel broke ground on a new Jewish settlement in occupied Arab East Jerusalem on a hill known as Jabal Abu Ghneim to Arabs and Har Homa to Jews.

After the United States vetoed two Security Council resolutions condemning the construction, the General Assembly held an emergency special session on the issue on April 25.

It adopted by 134 votes to three a resolution demanding a halt to "illegal" Israeli settlement building in occupied territories.

U.N. General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding. But diplomats say the resolution would have extra weight since it would be adopted at a special emergency session, called when the Security Council "fails to protect world security."

The resolution will be the baptism by fire of Israel's new ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold, formerly a close Netanyahu adviser. He is expected to arrive in New York in time for the debate. Mr. Fogel said.

Pro-Khartoum group claims recapture of 5 towns

KHARTOUM (AP) — A former rebel leader now allied with the government has claimed that his fighters have captured five towns in southern Sudan from rebel forces, a newspaper reported.

Riak Machar, leader of the United Democratic Salvation Front (UDSF), also

warned Sudanese rebels that they are mistaken if they believe that they are in "a better military position than we are," the comments made Sunday by Mr. Machar were published in the independent daily Akhbar Al Youm.

Mr. Machar said his forces took the towns of Warab, Lima, Makoj, Tshwai and

Tali in south Sudan, the newspaper reported.

There was no independent confirmation of Mr. Machar's claim.

John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), has denied that his forces were driven from Warab.

captured most of Sudan's southern border with Congo and Uganda.

The SPLA has been fighting for greater autonomy for the south since 1983.

Mr. Machar's group joined with three other southern factions and signed a peace agreement with the government on April 21.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair laughs with PLO leader Yasser Arafat at Number 10 Downing Street Monday. Arafat met Blair to plead for Western assistance after reports of missing funds from the Palestinian budget (AFP photo)

Palestinian negotiator heads to U.S. for talks on peace process

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat travelled to Washington Tuesday for talks on the stalled peace process with U.S. State Department officials and congressmen.

Mr. Erakat was to meet with National Security Adviser Sandy Berger and with the U.S. special envoy to the peace process, Dennis Ross. Palestinian state television reported.

He is holding the talks after a request by Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat to explore statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton last week that "new specific actions" were necessary to restart the peace process.

which has been deadlocked for four months.

Speaking in Madrid at the end of a NATO conference, President Clinton said last Wednesday that Washington was "working on" plans to end the crisis, but he refused to reveal any details.

Mr. Erakat, who leads the Palestinians in talks with the Israelis, is also to meet with the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and other congressional officials, the television said.

In June, the U.S. Congress raised vehement protests from Palestinians when it passed a non-binding resolution in mid-June recognising Jerusalem as the united

capital of Israel.

The Palestinian National Authority said the vote put in question the U.S. role as a mediator in the peace process with Israel.

The Palestinians walked out of negotiations in mid-March when Israel began construction of a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, and they have refused to return until Israel calls a halt to all settlement construction.

Israel has refused the condition and both the United States and Egypt have tried, so far in vain, to mediate an end to the deadlock.

Only Arab League boycott can stop Mideast economic summit — Qatar

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar has said only an Arab League boycott can stop the Middle East economic summit it plans to host in November despite protests from several Arab states.

"The threats against Qatar and all the racket can only strengthen its determination to organise the conference because Qatar does not accept threats from anyone," Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jasssem Al

Thani said late Monday.

"The conference will lead the Arab World neither to victory nor defeat. The upsur is like what was orchestrated at the time of the Camp David accords" which led to peace between Egypt and Israel, he told reporters.

But Sheikh Hamad said "Qatar is prepared to call off the conference if a single Arab country can prove that it will be damaging for the Arabs."

"If the Arab World, in the framework of the Arab League, adopts a united stand to boycott the conference, then we can talk about it," said Qatar's foreign minister.

Syria, with the backing of economic powerhouse Saudi Arabia, has lobbied for the conference to be scrapped. It argues that the forum would amount to a reward for Israel's hardline stand in the deadlocked Middle East peace process.

H. Kong settles arms-for-Iran case out of court

HONG KONG (R) — The Hong Kong government reached an out of court settlement Tuesday with a company it had previously shut down and accused of helping Iran to produce "weapons of mass destruction."

A court challenge to a government decision to close down Rex International Development Co. Ltd., which the government alleged sold weapons material to the Islamic state, ended in mystery.

Details of the settlement were not released. Lawyers for the company had been seeking a judicial review of the government's action.

However, when the hearing resumed for its second day in the Court of First Instance Tuesday, lawyers for both parties told the judge they had reached a solution.

"We have reached a good solution in this matter," the company's lawyer Edward

Chan told Judge James Fyfe.

A government lawyer said the terms were "agreeable" but he did not reveal the details.

The unlisted company, which ceased business on June 27, will now be allowed to re-register, court sources said.

In the previous session of the hearing, the government had alleged Rex sold strategic material that would "prejudice the security and international reputation of Hong Kong." It was claimed the firm had supplied equipment to Iran for weapons production and that it had potentially provided materials for "chemical warfare to terrorists."

On June 24, in its last sitting before Britain handed Hong Kong back to China, the colonial government's cabinet, the Executive Council, ruled in favour of closing Rex, along with

another company, Cheong Yee.

The following day the companies registrar issued a notice saying the firms should be struck off, and the decision was published in the official gazette on June 27.

But Rex, which had been operating for 15 years, launched its court challenge Monday, arguing that the Executive Council had no right to wind it up.

Mr. Chan said the government had failed to show which business deals gave rise to its objections and that the company was given too little time to respond to the allegations against it.

Rex was investigated by the Customs Department in January.

The company was set up in 1982 by the Chinese state-run arms dealer China North Industries Corp. (NORINCO) and a prominent Hong Kong businessman, Tsui Tsin-Tong.

Brad Pitt sues to cover up nude photographs

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge ordered Playboy magazine not to deliver any more copies of its August edition that contain photographs of movie star Brad Pitt in the nude. However, Judge Robert O'Brien did not order the magazine's recall, as Pitt had demanded. In his suit filed in Los Angeles superior court, Pitt sought an injunction against the magazine. He said that the photographs were taken in 1995 by a photographer who trespassed on the grounds of a hotel in the West Indies to shoot in a bungalow where Pitt was staying with his then girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow. Paltrow appears in some of the photos.

2 Israeli pilots trick stewardess by hiding during flight

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Two Israeli pilots who hid from a stewardess during a flight from Eilat to Tel Aviv lost their licences but continue to fly with the Israel-Air Company, the Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday. One of the pilots ordered a drink from the stewardess during the flight but when she arrived with it, she found the cockpit empty. The two pilots had left the plane on automatic pilot while they went and hid in an adjoining compartment in order to "trick" her. When the plane landed, the incident was reported to the Civil Aviation Authority, which revoked the pilots' licences.

O.J. Simpson's house sold to bank at auction

NORWALK (R) — O.J. Simpson's luxury mansion was sold off at a bargain auction price of \$2.6 million, but the families of Simpson's slain ex-wife and her friend will not see any of the money. Patrick Dobies placed the winning bid on behalf of Hawthorne Savings and Loan, which owns the mortgage on the property. He handed over certified checks in the amount of \$2,631,259 to the auctioneer after the two-minute public sale on the steps of the courthouse here.

U.S. girl charged over baby born in toilet

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (R) — A 16-year-old girl from the Dominican Republic has been arrested after giving birth to a baby son in a bus terminal toilet in Atlantic City, authorities said Monday. The teenage mother gave birth sitting on a toilet and left the baby in the toilet bowl. It was pulled out alive minutes later and was in a critical condition in a local hospital, Atlantic county prosecutor Jeffrey Blitz told reporters. The infant weighed three kilograms and was full-term. The young mother, who was not identified by name, was preparing to return to Yonkers, New York, late Sunday with a group that had taken her on a gambling junket.

Accused parrot smuggler sentenced in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A Florida man convicted of conspiring to smuggle protected African grey parrots into the United States was sentenced to a year and a day in jail, justice officials said Monday. Adolph "Buzz" Pare, 63, of Miami, Florida was also convicted of trying to defraud the U.S. fish and wildlife service. The officials said in a statement. Pare was also ordered to pay a fine of \$300,000, the largest ever sum in a U.S. federal wildlife smuggling case.

Thousands attend funeral of Han

Some 2,000 Hamas supporters gathered in the funeral of a Hamas militant who was shot in the chest during a clash with Israeli troops in the West Bank. The militant, identified as Ahmad al-Nawabs, was shot in the chest during a clash with Israeli troops in the West Bank. The militant, identified as Ahmad al-Nawabs, was shot in the chest during a clash with Israeli troops in the West Bank.

Israeli army's Palestinian prisoners and dead

Israeli army's Palestinian prisoners and dead were taken to a military hospital in the West Bank. The army said it had taken 10 prisoners and 10 dead bodies to a military hospital in the West Bank.

Amir's fire in Lebanon

Amir's fire in Lebanon. The fire was caused by a landmine explosion in the town of Amir, Lebanon. The explosion killed several people and injured many others.

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